

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Benn's blast
Tony Benn on the dangers of society accepting the status quo



Ballet master
Profile of Sir Frederick Ashton who is 80 this month

Fleeting fame
Bernard Levin contrasts the lasting qualities of classical music with ephemeral pop

Teeling off
Mitchell Platts sets the scene for the start of the World Matchplay Golf Championship at Wentworth

Last line
James Fenton reviews Peter Ackroyd's biography of T. S. Eliot

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio competition was won yesterday by Mr Geoffrey Waddell who lives in Reigate, Surrey. Portfolio list, page 18; how to play, information service, back page.

Mother and child hurt in shooting

Mrs Cheryl Woodward and her daughter, Jody, aged two, were shot and seriously injured at their home. Armed police last night were surrounding a neighbouring building with an armed man inside at Walderslade, near Chatham, Kent.

Temple pull-out

Mrs Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, said her troops would leave the Golden Temple in Amritsar, where repairs work had been continuing, but she did not give a date. Sikh plea, page 4.

Reporters ban

Israeli troops refused entry to Israeli-based foreign journalists trying to enter Israeli-occupied southern Lebanon and threatened to confiscate their identity papers.

Protecting embassies, page 5

Six-day Lloyds

Lloyds Bank is to open on Saturdays when it will concentrate on selling financial services through some branches and its estate agency network.

Nine end strike

Nine of the 10 "loyalist" prisoners on hunger strike at Magilligan Prison in Co Londonderry, Northern Ireland, were reported to be taking food again yesterday.

The Times

We apologize to readers who did not receive their copies of The Times yesterday. This was due to mechanical problems on the presses.

The feature on the continuing police hunt for the murderer of a child aged five will now appear on Friday.

Leader page 11
Letters on the Posing case, from Mr Sam Silkin, QC; Bishop of Durham, from Mr A. O. H. Quick, and others; film finance, from Mr A. Field.

Leaving articles: Ballots for strikes; Sudan; Conveyancing policy. Features, pages 8-10

Mrs Thatcher's council spending dilemma: a French textbook for educational reform; biking in a bubble. Spectrum: Jesse Jackson's pre-election battle. Wednesday Page: Irene Handl, actress turned author.

Obituary, page 12
Sir John Lang, Raymond Basset.

Trinidad & Tobago, pages 14-17
After 28 years in power, the People's National Movement, led by Mr George Chambers, faces its greatest challenge yet: the end of the oil boom, and a soaring cost of living. A Special Report, pages 25-30

Classifieds, pages 25-30
Appointments, property.

Home News	2-4	Diary	18
Overseas	4-7	Events	32
Arts	12	Property	28-29
Archaeology	12	Sale Room	12
Arts	13	Science	12
Bridge	12	Sport	22-25
Business	18-22	TV & Radio	31
Court	12	Theatres, etc	31
Crossword	32	Weather	32

Chancellor predicts lower loan rates but little jobs relief

From Sarah Hogg and Bailey Morris, Washington

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Nigel Lawson, yesterday forecast continued economic recovery in Britain and some fall in interest rates, but held out little hope for an early decline in unemployment. Mr Lawson was speaking at the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, when President Reagan also promised continued growth and lower interest rates in a vigorous defence of American economic policy.

Mr Lawson gave a warning about jobs, saying that there is little prospect of reversing the trend of unemployment unless growth in real wages is decisively moderated.

The Chancellor's speech to the IMF, which he traditionally uses to review Britain's economic prospects, was more pessimistic about unemployment than in the past. He called it Britain's one outstanding worry, even though the number of jobs in Britain is, he says, now rising twice as fast as the level of unemployment.

Mr Lawson said there was a need to place more emphasis on policies to improve the supply side of the economy. Questioned as to what policies he meant, the Chancellor mentioned removing obstacles to employers taking on more workers and increasing competition.

He said he now expected economic growth in Britain to be closer to 2 per cent than the 3 per cent previously expected, because of the coal strike, but that recovery from this would automatically add an extra 1 per cent to growth next year.

He said that recorded growth would be higher in 1985 than in 1984, but the distortion caused by the coal strike may mean that his claim indicates an underlying growth rate of as little as 1½ per cent.

Questioned about the dollar, Mr Lawson said that it had been quite extraordinarily high, but that he was sceptical about intervening in the currency market. He added that Britain was sticking by the agreement reached at the Williamsburg summit last year to join in

the dramatic US economic recovery which had spawned an "American renaissance" which would lead the world on a new course toward lasting prosperity.

Brushing aside criticism of his economic policies, he told delegates that as a result of his programme, the United States had reassured its leadership by returning to the basic entrepreneurial values.

Mr Reagan predicted that interest rates, a source of deep concern to debtor nations, would continue to decline in the weeks ahead. He chided nations which have criticized the United States for its high interest rates saying: "Not enough mention is made of trade and of the far greater benefits developing nations receive from renewed US growth."

The President's speech, described by White House aides as a major economic address, dwelt heavily on the themes of "economic freedom" and "unfettered markets, programmes rewarding 'hard work and legitimate risk'."

Mr Reagan said his policies of cutting government spending and reducing taxes were working. The proof, he said, was 21 straight months of economic growth, the strongest since 1950.

Even as Mr Reagan spoke, Dr Henry Kaufman, the influential chief economist of Salomon Brothers, the New York investment company, testified before Congress that unless there was strong action to cut US budget deficits over the next year, there would be an explosion in interest rates.

Disappointing British trade figures and a renewed rally by the dollar pushed the pound 1.25 cents lower to close at \$1.2335 in London. The trade figures showed a visible deficit of \$568m for August, after a surplus of \$113m in July, but were heavily distorted by the coal and dock strikes.

concentrated action with other governments to intervene when markets become "disorderly". He said that the markets had been disorderly before the weekend, but refused to say whether the Bank of England had intervened.

American interest rates, the Chancellor said, had been easing but he foresaw limited scope for a further decline while the US budget deficit was so high. However, he did think British interest rates could decline further.

He said that Britain had achieved all its main objectives at the IMF and World Bank meetings, including resisting a further allocation of special drawing rights and some cut-backs in the annual limit on IMF loans.

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Mr Denis Worrall, South Africa's Ambassador, arriving at the Foreign Office yesterday

UK links with Pretoria sink to a new low

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Relations between Britain and South Africa plunged to their lowest level for eight years yesterday after Pretoria's dramatic retaliation over what has become known as the Durban Six affair.

Mr Denis Worrall, the South African Ambassador, was summoned to the Foreign Office last night amid Opposition calls for action, after President P. W. Botha announced that four South Africans, on bail from a British court, would not after all be returned to face arms smuggling charges next month.

Pretoria has seen it as a tit-for-tat reaction to Britain's refusal to evict six political dissidents who have sought refuge from South African police inside the British Consulate at Durban.

But Lady Young, the Deputy Foreign Secretary, told Mr Worrall in a sharp 20-minute meeting that Britain "deplored" his Government's decision to link the two cases.

Pretoria had given a clear undertaking to the four businessmen who have been accused before Coventry magistrates of breaking a UN embargo on arms to South Africa, would return to this country to stand trial on October 22. "We expect the South African Government to honour their undertaking," she said.

The situation in Durban was not of Britain's choosing and the best way to resolve it remained by negotiations.

between the six fugitives and the Pretoria Government. Conditions could then be created in which they left the consulate voluntarily, she said. Britain's position meanwhile remained unchanged - the six should not be turned out against their will.

But the Government's firmness may not be enough to please critics like Mr Denis Healey, the shadow Foreign Secretary, who called yesterday for EEC economic sanctions against Pretoria. His colleague Mr Donald Anderson MP demanded that the Government should instruct Mr Patrick Moberly not to take up his position as the new British Ambassador in Pretoria early next month.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher has been under fire since her decision three months ago to invite President P. V. Van der Riet to a working lunch at Chequers. Critics have also resented her for refusing to intervene on the side of the Durban Six.

Now Britain finds itself under attack from both sides in a crisis which, observers say, is the worst in Anglo-South African relations since the riots in Soweto in 1976.

Archbishop Trevor Huddleston, president of the Anti-Apartheid Movement, said last night that he hoped the British Government had learnt a lesson - that the South African regime was not to be trusted.

Critical press, page 2

Pickets hurl stones at motorway convoy

Miners' pickets in South Wales yesterday ambushed a 140-strong convoy of heavy lorries ferrying coal and iron ore 50 miles along the M4 from Port Talbot to the Ebbw Vale steelworks.

The lorries were damaged by missiles as they passed under a series of 35 motorway bridges manned by 300 striking miners. But the battered convoy got through.

The police later produced a 4ft wooden pit prop which they said was among missiles hurled. Windscreens were smashed and a large stone crashed through one lorry's glass fibre cab roof.

The driver, Mr Clive Hanbury, aged 38, of Newport, Gwent, was treated for an arm injury. "A few inches the other way, the driver would have been killed," the police said.

Mr W. V. Brook, Assistant Chief Constable for South Wales, said that stone throwers would be arrested for murder if they caused a fatal motorway crash.

After studying reports of the incidents, he appealed to National Union of Mineworkers' officials not to risk a pile-up, which could be caused by a swerving lorry.

"Let us not beat about the bush. This was malicious and irresponsible, and could easily have caused a horrifying motorway accident."

Mr Brook added that not all the pickets had been throwing stones, only an "arrogant element" which had deliberately tried to halt the convoy.

"Most miners are good people. In no way can this sort of behaviour be acceptable to any decent miner or their families."

Extra police were moved along the M4 when pickets took up positions on all the motorway bridges. Senior officers described it as a well-organized attempt to try to stretch police resources along the whole route.

The incidents were the first involving the lorries for several weeks. Regular daily convoys have ferried thousands of tons of coal and iron ore. A haulage contractor, Mr Martyn Hazell, of Newport, who has masterminded the convoy operation, said that he was considering suing the miners union.

Photograph, page 2

Pit strike peace move to be made at Labour conference

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

A renewed attempt to find a formula to end the miners' strike could be launched during next week's Labour Party conference, according to senior union officials.

Pressure for a reopening of negotiations between the National Coal Board and the miners' union was increased yesterday as the TUC undertook for the first time a central role in coordinating action by transport unions in support of striking miners.

There were strong indications that a fresh initiative will come from the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service and could follow Monday's debate on the coal dispute during which Mr Arthur Scargill, National Union of Mineworkers' president, is to speak.

Negotiations are likely to depend on events over the next few days, including the heading off of the threatened all-out strike by pit deputies whose leaders are due to meet the board today.

Mr Scargill emerged from meetings at TUC headquarters in London last night to say that three of the biggest unions in the electricity supply industry, the General and Municipal Transport and General and engineering workers' had indicated their willingness to take supportive action.

Mr Gavin Laird, general secretary of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, said "Inevitably there will be power cuts and I would say power cuts within six or eight weeks at the outside." Help would take some time to work through, he said.

That optimism is unlikely, however, to receive full backing when the power unions meet on Friday to plan their response to the call to support striking miners. The electricians and managers' unions are hostile to the suggestion and the least that could be expected would be that they will mount consultation exercises with their members to test support.

Yesterday's meeting between the NUM and the electricity unions followed talks with the transport unions which pledged total support to make the dispute more effective by trying to cut supply of coal and oil into power stations.

Ballot demand, page 12
Leaving article, page 12

Esso puts another 3p on petrol

By Jonathan Davis, Business Correspondent

Petrol prices are going up again - just eight days after the last round of increases. Esso, the joint market leader with Shell, said yesterday that prices at its 3,000 stations would be going up by 3.2p a gallon from midnight last night. This will bring the average price of four-star petrol to 189.6p.

The other big oil companies are expected to follow shortly. Shell, which like Esso, has 20 per cent of the petrol market, said last night it was under the same cost pressures as Esso. "Nobody has made any secret of the fact that 198p a gallon is the kind of price we need to make a decent rate of return on petrol," a spokesman said.

Esso blamed the need for another increase on the continued weakness of the pound against the dollar which has pushed up the cost of crude oil. Diesel is also going up to a new average price of 177.8p.

Conveyancing costs could fall by 30%

Ending the solicitor's monopoly on conveyancing could reduce fees by 25 to 30 per cent, Professor Julian Farrand, chairman of the Government appointed conveyancing committee, said when his report was published yesterday.

The report recommends that a council should be set up to superintend non-solicitor conveyancers, drawing up and administering a code of conduct.

The Law Society has welcomed the proposals which would require legislation if they are to be implemented.

Ringling the changes in the bride market

Bahrain (Reuters) - Arab states in the Gulf are worried about the increasing number of marriages their men are undertaking with foreign girls seeking a prosperous life with oil-rich husbands. They believe such marriages may threaten local traditions and dilute indigenous populations.

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia has urged Saudi studying abroad to marry girls of their own nationality. He said: "Saudi girls have no problems with their morals or virtues. They are no less beautiful than women in any other part of the world."

In the United Arab Emirates, a recent study by the Labour and Social Affairs Ministry said marriages to foreign girls were a threat to society and urged the Government to find men who marry foreign girls.

Some Gulf states are moving to curb mixed marriages, living partly on the high cost of oil and partly on the dowry. In the Arab world, a groom usually pays the dowry to guarantee financial security to the wife in case of divorce.

In the United Arab Emirates, which has one of the world's highest per capita incomes, dowries can cost 250,000 dirhams (\$54,000).

Registered marriages are to non-local girls

The Labour Ministry study said Egyptian and Indian women accounted for 70 per cent of mixed marriages. More than half the men married to foreign women were older than 60 and had wives less than 20 years old.

"There are dangerous consequences to new generations from mixed marriages... They will be divided between local and foreign customs," the study said.

In Kuwait, a Government committee was set up recently to look at ways of restricting the number of marriages of elderly Kuwaiti men to young foreign girls.

Qatar has introduced a similar system, providing loans and grants to young Qatari men to marry local girls, while Oman has limited dowries.

In the United Arab Emirates, where expatriates account for 80 per cent of the total population of 1.1 million, 50 per cent of the total

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Immigration law helps jobless, court of human rights told

The Government's immigration laws are helping Britain's unemployed problems by keeping out nearly 5,700 foreign job-hunters every year, the European Court of Human Rights was told yesterday.

Lord Rawlinson, QC, for the Government, told the court in Strasbourg that it was just a coincidence for any differences between the treatment of men and women immigrants entering Britain.

He rejected claims in a test case that those differences amounted to sexual discrimination in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights.

The accusation comes from three women, who challenged the Government when their husbands were refused permission to settle with them in Britain.

Mrs Arcey Cabales, Mrs Sohair Balkandali, and Mrs Najia Abdulaziz say that immigration rules flout the convention not only by discriminating between men and women, but by not protecting the right to respect for family life.

The central issue is that the rules ban a foreign man from joining his wife in Britain unless she or one of her parents was born there. The rule does not apply to a foreign wife joining her husband.

Amendments to the 1980 immigration laws last year now allow foreign men into Britain if they are joining women who are registered British citizens - but that has been little comfort to the three who have taken on the Government.

Mrs Balkandali, originally from Egypt, is now living with her husband, and Mrs Cabales, from the Philippines, has just been accepted for British citizenship, but they resent the four years of worry they say they have experienced because of the rules.

They were both in court

yesterday, backed by the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants. A dozen other women whose future family life depends on the outcome of the court case were also present.

Mrs Abdulaziz, from Malawi, has been joined by her husband in Britain temporarily, but she has no British citizenship and he faces deportation.

Lord Rawlinson told the judges that Britain's immigration controls were outside the scope of the articles of the convention relating to discrimination and the respect for family life.

He said that differences between the treatment of men and women were justified because of Britain's economic situation, and there was no denial of the right to respect for family life because, even if the men could not join their wives, the wives and families were free to reside elsewhere with their husbands.

Lord Rawlinson said that pressure for jobs jeopardized community relations, adversely affecting the prospects of the many already lawfully settled immigrants in Britain, quite apart from British citizens.

But he admitted that the rules for wives were more generous than for their husbands.

A spokesman for the European Commission for Human Rights, which has already delivered its opinion backing the three women, said that there was no reasonable justification for picking out foreign husbands on employment grounds.

Mr J. Carrillo told the court that, even taking the Government's estimate of 5,700 exclusions each year, there could be no significant impact on the domestic labour market.

He told the court that the key issue was one of discrimination, a matter which was "fundamentally unjust and incompatible with human dignity" and safeguarded by the convention.

Judgment in the case will be given next year.

Union anger at hospital struck by poison

Four patients from a psychiatric hospital are being treated for suspected salmonella poisoning, it was disclosed yesterday.

A union official said that the outbreak comes after health leaders ignored calls to improve standards at the hospital.

Now embarrassed officials at Rainhill Psychiatric Hospital on Merseyside have ordered an inquiry into how the patients became infected.

The sickness comes a few days after 19 patients at a Wakefield hospital died when they contracted a similar illness after being served infected beef.

Staff at Rainhill transferred the four patients to an isolation ward when they began to show symptoms of food poisoning and banned new admissions to the 1,300-bed hospital.

Union leaders representing 2,000 staff called for meetings with management to discuss the outbreak.

The Nupe shop steward at the hospital, Mr Geoff Finney, said yesterday that the St Helen and Walton Health Authority ignored their calls to improve standards in the hospital kitchens.

"The staff are working under conditions which can only be described as basic, because they are nursing psychiatric patients nobody seems to care."

A spokesman from Rainhill Hospital said the patients, two elderly men, a woman, and one young man were in an isolation unit at Liverpool's Fazakerley Hospital while tests were carried out to find the source of the illness.

Mr Hayden Oakes, district administrator said: "We accept some standards in the hospital are not acceptable and are doing everything in our power to improve these facilities, but the building is 150 years old."

Three more cases of salmonella poisoning were confirmed yesterday at Dykerbar Psychiatric Hospital, Paisley. There are now twelve cases there, eight women and four men, (the Press Association reports).



Starting point: The Rev Charles Hedley, curate in charge, guiding down the weathervane at St Martin-in-the-Fields, London, marking the start of renovation work costing £400,000 of which £30,000 is yet to be raised (Photograph: Murray Job).

Suicide risk for young unemployed

By Adriana Coady

One in four young unemployed people has considered suicide, according to a survey of more than 1,000, aged between 16 and 25, by a YMCA research team.

Twenty-six per cent of the young long-term jobless and 24 per cent of the short-term unemployed admitted that they had contemplated killing themselves, compared with 17 per cent of their counterparts with work.

Available statistics show that one in ten deaths among young people in their twenties are suicides, but according to the Samaritans, who receive more than a million calls a year from the suicidally depressed, suicide is the second highest cause of death among young people.

Dr Richard Farmer, a specialist in the study of suicide, told a conference field yesterday to launch the survey, organized by the Rev Dr Leslie Francis, that 0.1 per cent of young people attempt suicide each year.

The survey, which shows that unemployed youngsters are less likely to consider suicide, concentrated on those who had joined the YMCA.

Dr Francis speculated that if the survey had not focused on "comfortable Britain", but on areas of the North with higher unemployment, the number would have been higher.

The Rev Dr Chad Varah, founder of the Samaritans, said: "When you have got an immature young person who is unemployed and powerless, his aggression may turn inward and lead to suicidal depression."

After the attack, early on Saturday, Mr Mathieson, aged 44, was taken to a local clinic with few facilities and by a police car rather than an ambulance. "They just threw him in," he said.

At the clinic Mr Mathieson was at one stage denied the use of the lavatory and also told by an "impudent devil" of a nurse to shut up.

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Advertising on BBC 'could peg licence'

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The BBC could peg the television licence fee at its present £46 level until 1990 if it agreed to take a minute amount of advertising, according to a study published yesterday.

Britain's third largest advertising agency, D'Arcy-McManus & Masius, said that the corporation would need only 15 seconds of advertising an hour in 1985, rising to one and a half minutes an hour in 1990, to maintain the present licence fee.

ITV carries six minutes of advertising an hour. The corporation, which next month begins negotiations with the Government for a new licence fee, expected to be more than £60, refused to comment on the study, published in the trade magazine *Marketing Week*.

The agency's report directly contradicts BBC claims that advertising would radically alter the nature of the corporation's television service.

Mr Rodney Harris, the agency's media director, who compiled the study, said that the proposals would strengthen public service broadcasting.

They would mean financial stability for the corporation. For viewers, they would mean a steady reduction in the licence fee in real terms; the maintenance of public service broadcasting, offering quality and variety which satellite and cable could not match; and a consistent standard of good programmes not subject to deterioration due to delay in licence fee increases.

The survey is also critical of the lack of efficiency of ITV and the BBC. The BBC operates two television and four radio networks and a limited radio effort on a total staff of 25,468, the agency said. Commercial broadcasting operates two television and one radio network, broken up into regional companies, and employs 18,750.

"The BBC's highly unsuccessful venture into local radio and costly breakfast television launch, both designed to keep up with the IBA, must be diverting money and talent from its essential role which it continues to do surprisingly well", Mr Harris said.

The people of Birmingham are to get two new tabloid newspapers from today. *The Birmingham Post*, 127 years old, with a circulation of 36,000, reduces from broadsheet to compact size and next Tuesday a paper which, it is claimed, is Europe's first free daily newspaper is to be published.

The *Daily News*, will be "a bright breezy product".

Mr John Holland, editor of *The Birmingham Post* and the city's *Evening Mail*, said the plans to "go tabloid" were formulated before it was known a free newspaper was to be published.

The Nottingham Building Society's threat to repossess the home of a striking miner who had fallen behind with his mortgage payments was called off yesterday.

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Judge says court mediator should deter litigants

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Courts should take a more active role to reduce delays and encourage earlier settlement between parties, senior judges and lawyers said at a seminar in London yesterday.

Lord Justice Kerr, a Lord of Appeal, said any reform of civil court proceedings should make a top priority the involvement of a professional mediator to explain to litigants what was involved in a trial.

Such a mediator should try to deter litigants from going ahead, he said. Parties needed to know how proceedings worked, their cost, and how "chancy the outcome was". That was totally lacking in our system.

The judge also put forward the idea that legal aid should not be granted until the litigants had seen such a professional mediator.

Judge Michael Birks, who supported the idea said: "Once you could get the parties talking there is a chance they will settle."

The proposals were made on the first material for a full review of the civil court system to be undertaken by the Lord Chancellor's Department because of concern about costs and delays in civil litigation.

Details of how courts could take a more active role were given in a discussion paper by Sir Jack Jacob, formerly Queen's Remembrancer and Senior Master of the Supreme Court (Queen's Bench Division).

Sir Jack said it was essential that measures were brought in to enable courts to take a more active part in controlling civil litigation.

Challenging the traditional idea of the inactive and neutral court, he said that courts were dominated by the parties involved. That principle should no longer dominate in the interests of speed and reducing costs.

Courts should make more use of their powers to intervene in proceedings and be given fuller powers to require explanations for delays.

They should also monitor progress of cases, require parties to report progress, set down time scales, and ensure full disclosure of evidence between parties to avoid "trial by ambush" and help ensure a fair trial "free from lurking surprises".

Judges should also encourage settlements by mediation, although that would not be done by the judge, and be able to call witnesses not called by either party, and appoint court experts.

Sir Jack also urged more use of written procedures, arguing that the oral process of reaching the truth probably prolonged hearings by as much as half.

The seminar, chaired by Lord Justice Templeman, also heard the Lord Chancellor's Department criticized as inappropriate to conduct the review of the civil courts.

Sir Max Williams, past president of the Law Society, said that the department did not have sufficient personnel with the necessary calibre and experience to conduct a review of the size that the Government intended. "If the review body is to have the confidence of the public, it should have a measure of independence and be capable of taking a detached and objective view."

Lloyds joins banks open on Saturday

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Lloyds Bank is planning to introduce Saturday banking for customers by opening some branches at weekends and developing financial services through estate agents.

The bank's Black Horse estate agency network has about 160 outlets and there are proposals to add more. Lloyds, however, is not expected to provide the traditional counter service on Saturdays. Customers wanting cash will almost certainly have to use cash dispenser machines and there are plans to introduce them into the estate agents.

The move is sure to intensify competition between banks. Barclays already opens about 440 branches on Saturday mornings and National Westminster recently announced plans for Saturday opening at some branches from next spring.

National Westminster and Lloyds plan to concentrate on selling financial services such as loans and mortgages on Saturdays.

Barclays took the lead by reopening its banks at weekends two years ago after the banks closed them in 1969.

Two young men have had transplants at Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge, with the kidneys of Lloyd Auker, aged 10, of King's Lynn, Norfolk, who died when his bicycle was in collision with a car.

Police officers displaying missiles thrown yesterday at lorries driving to Llanwrda steel works.

The aftermath of the 1984 GMBATU conference in 1986. The executive of the GMBATU is to discuss the issue this week, but is not expected to change its policy.

By contrast, the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union, which has also been urged to take action, has said it will hold a ballot and is in the process of changing its rules.

The TGWU is refusing to acknowledge the existence of the Act and has made clear that rule changes could be made only by a special union conference.

Letters, page 11

Jenkin attacks Labour on leak

By Anthony Bervins, Political Correspondent

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, last night attacked Labour's "confused" interpretation of a leaked departmental paper on government cash for housing.

Labour used the leaked document to claim that the Government had wrongly deprived four Labour-controlled councils of more than £50m in housing grants.

But Mr Jenkin yesterday told Mr Jack Cunningham, his Opposition shadow: "The work referred to is concerned with

future years; we have not 'taken money' from anyone."

Because of that, he minister said, the paper could not influence rate capping decisions which had already been reached.

Local authorities had for years past criticized the "methodology" of grant-related expenditure, Mr Jenkin said.

"This year, it was decided to grasp the nettle and open up for consideration with the local authority associations the possibility of changes in the methodology."

"George Young was quite right to draw attention to the fact that, since any change would involve gains and losses among authorities, development work was bound to be sensitive", Mr Jenkin said.

But he added that subsequent changes had been made to the proposals and the leaked memorandum had therefore been "overtaken".

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Sailors are found after 138 years

By Richard Dowden

The remains of two British seamen who died 138 years ago in the search for the north-west passage have been recovered from Arctic ice "perfectly preserved".

Professor Owen Beattie, of Alberta University, said that the sailors' remains looked more alive dead. "It's a time machine, seeing someone who looks as they did 138 years ago, wearing their clothing."

Petty Officer John Torrington, aged 20, and Able Seaman John Hartnell, aged 25 who were members of the crew of 124 in Sir John Franklin's 1846 expedition from the Atlantic to the Pacific. His ships were abandoned after being crushed in ice and the entire expedition perished.

Professor Beattie said tissue and bone samples had been removed and would be studied to determine the cause of death.

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Spanish police criticized

By Richard Dowden

Mrs Sheila Mathieson, whose husband was stabbed to death on the Costa Brava, has accused Spanish police and medical authorities of neglect. She said yesterday that if the police and clinic staff had responded earlier, her husband, David, might still be alive.

After the attack, early on Saturday, Mr Mathieson, aged 44, was taken to a local clinic with few facilities and by a police car rather than an ambulance. "They just threw him in," he said.

At the clinic Mr Mathieson was at one stage denied the use of the lavatory and also told by an "impudent devil" of a nurse to shut up.

It was left to an English woman holidaymaker, a patient at the clinic, to tell her husband that he had died.

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Miners ask judge to order ballot

By Richard Dowden

Two Yorkshire miners followed Derbyshire colleagues to the High Court yesterday to seek a ballot of the National Union of Mineworkers' 180,000 members on whether to strike.

Mr Michael Burton, QC, for the two men, who are seeking to have the 28-week-old strike declared unlawful, told Mr Justice Nicholas, who last week heard a similar claim by three Derbyshire miners, that because of the union's failure to hold a proper ballot in Yorkshire, the strike call was in breach of its own rules.

At branch meetings of the Yorkshire area there had either been no ballot or the use of the ballot was denied, he said. "Never the less, both ballots have been disregarded", Mr Burton said.

He said that the two men, Mr Robert Taylor, aged 33, and Mr Kenneth Foulstone, aged 45, both face workers at Manton colliery, were seeking to have the union fulfil its contractual obligations to its members.

The union was not represented in court and Mr Burton told the judge that tomorrow he may seek judgment for the two men in default of a defence to the action. The hearing continues.

The Nottingham Building Society's threat to repossess the home of a striking miner who had fallen behind with his mortgage payments was called off yesterday.

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Conveyancing fees 'could be cut by 30%' after solicitors' monopoly ends

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

Conveyancing fees could be reduced by 25 to 30 per cent for house buyers because of the Government's decision to end solicitors' monopoly, Professor Julian Farrand, chairman of the Government-appointed conveyancing committee, said yesterday.

Speaking on the publication of its report on non-solicitor conveyancers, he said that ending the monopoly would result in a "substantial undercutting, a reduction of costs charged by solicitors and licensed conveyancers".

The report recommends that a new council for licensed conveyancers should superintend non-solicitor conveyancers, draw up and administer tests of competence and a code of conduct, and ensure adequate insurance and compensation in the event of fraud.

The proposals, which would require legislation to be implemented, were welcomed by the Law Society, representing the 38,000 practising solicitors in England and Wales, which said that they should provide the vital protection for the public.

Professor Farrand hoped that the Government would legislate in the next session of Parliament to increase competition in conveyancing. The committee had wanted to give consumers confidence in that competition,

and while it had proposed certain restrictions on competition, "these are intended to go no wider than is necessary to ensure adequate consumer protection".

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, Lord Chancellor, said the Government would consider the report and announce its decision as soon as possible.

The committee, which assumed that licensed conveyancers would be restricted to undertaking domestic conveyancing, has formulated tests of competence so that the licensed conveyancer should be able to offer a standard of service similar to that of a solicitor.

Professor Farrand, a Law Commissioner, said that the test meant that a licensed conveyancer would be one quarter as well qualified as a solicitor, but as qualified in conveyancing.

The committee recommends written tests on law and practice, its syllabus amounts to a one-year A level in law, and a one-year course in conveyancing at Law Society examination level. It also involves two years of practice in a conveyancing office before a licence is granted, and another three years before any conveyancer can practice.

Solicitors and legal executives with equivalent or superior qualifications would be

exempted, while experienced but insufficiently qualified conveyancers could take an oral test to determine whether they could be exempted.

The report's central recommendation is for a new statutory body, the Council for Licensed Conveyancers, with responsibility for all regulation of licensed conveyancers. It would include representatives of the Law Society, the Building Societies and consumers.

In a note of dissent, Mr Ivor Hussey, of the National Institute of Conveyancing Agents, complained that the work of licensed conveyancers should not be restricted to domestic conveyancing and argued that a single body should be set up to control everyone, including solicitors, who did the conveyancing.

The National Association of Conveyancers, representing about 50 non-solicitor conveyancers, welcomed the safeguards and restrictions recommended, but criticised the tests as too harsh. "They have gone overboard on qualifications and it means that the solicitors' monopoly will not be broken", Mr David Ashford, its chairman said.

Non-Solicitor Conveyancers' Complaints and Consumer Protection (Stationery Office, £6.30). Leading article, page 11

Dealers cut prices of unsold cars

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

Ford dealers are selling new Sierra cars at up to £2,800 below list prices because they are overstocked to win factory sales bonuses last month and are left with many unsold cars.

Ford offered bonuses of up to £350 on every car sold last month. But to qualify, dealers had to reach factory sales targets based on new car registrations and as the end of August approached many of them registered unsold cars in their own name to achieve these targets.

Dealer registering has become common practice in the motor trade. It results from the pressure exerted on them by the manufacturers' bitter discount war.

The manufacturers also register cars, to boost a new model's apparent performance in a particular month. They have later sold to dealers and operators at heavily discounted prices.

There is an additional worry for Ford dealers this month because unsold 1984 models will be overtaken by 1985 models within the next three weeks.

One Coventry dealer is advertising B-registered 1.6-litre

five-door Sierras for £4,857, a saving of £1,054, and top-of-the-range 2.8-litre Sierra XR4is at £7,535, nearly £2,800 below list price.

● The new 125mph Ford Escort RS Turbo announced today is the fastest version of the world's best-selling car. It is also the first turbo-charged car to be made by Ford in Europe.

A minimum of 5,000, expected to cost about £9,000, will be manufactured in its first year to enable it to qualify for Group A racing. The engine is a much-modified version of the 1.6-litre injection unit used in the 115mph Escort XR3i, but now equipped with an inter-cooled Garrett turbo-charger.

● A Japanese-designed medium-size delivery van, the Midi, is launched today by Bedford Commercial Vehicles, the truck and bus division of General Motors in Britain (Our Industrial Correspondent writes).

The one-tonne Midi is to be built at the company's Luton factory and is the result of a £70m investment. Production is to begin at the end of the year. The range comprises a panel van, a window van, and bus and wagon variants.

Son of TV actor beats drugs

The son of Gordon Jackson, the actor, was conditionally discharged yesterday after he had beaten his drug addiction.

Roderick Jackson, aged 24, a dispatch rider, of Holly Mount, Hampstead, north London, was arrested in Kenilworth Town last November after police officers kept observation on a known heroin dealer's house, Highbury Magistrates' Court was told.

Jackson, who in March admitted possessing 49 milligrams of heroin and 23 micro-dots of LSD worth £46, said the drugs were entirely for his own use.

Sentence had been deferred to give him a chance to keep off drugs.

The magistrate, commended Jackson for keeping his side of the bargain and conditionally discharged him for two years, saying: "I sincerely hope that the criminal courts do not see you again".

Widow's death sparks inquiry

Lancashire detectives yesterday were investigating the death of Mrs Elizabeth Harwood, a widow aged 94, whose body was found behind the front door of her home in Lulworth Avenue, Preston.

Mrs Harwood was part deaf and virtually housebound. She relied on relatives and neighbours to do her shopping. She was found when friends noticed a broken glass panel in her door.

Baby abandoned

A baby girl, less than four hours old, was found abandoned in the women's lavatory at Fenchurch Street Station, London, yesterday. She was taken to St Bartholomew's Hospital. British Rail said that a woman claiming to be the mother had come forward.

Sotheby's stands by to sell a lot of sofa



Sitting room: A 14ft pale pink leather Chesterfield, believed to be the world's longest sofa, to be auctioned at Sotheby's on Friday to raise money for the Abbeystead waterworks disaster fund. The sofa, made by the Leather Suite Centre, of Preston, is expected to raise up to £4,000 to close the fund, which stands at £69,832 (Photograph: Suresh Karadia).

Contraceptives 'used by 60,000 under-16s'

Sixty thousand children legally too young to have sexual intercourse are using contraceptives supplied by clinics and doctors, it was claimed yesterday.

Mrs Valerie Riches, secretary of the Responsible Society, argues that parents have the right to be told when their under-age children are getting birth control aids.

The number of children going to National Health Service clinics doubled to more than 16,000 between 1976 and 1983. In addition, Mrs Riches claims, the Brook clinics see 15,000 children a year.

"Add to this a conservative estimate of one child a GP a year, and a total of over 60,000 under-16s are in receipt of contraceptives."

In a booklet, No Entry for

Parents, Mrs Riches adds: "So much for the 'exceptional cases' and the 'small problem' to which the child-sex lobby allude".

Although so many contraceptives are being distributed, abortions among the under-16s have more than doubled since 1969, the first year of legal abortion. They are now running at a rate of four in every 1,000 under-16s a year.

At the same time cancer of the cervix, often linked to early sexual intercourse, has greatly increased.

A spokeswoman for the Brook clinics said that the report "shows a total disregard for the truth". She said that the clinics saw about 2,000 children a year, not 15,000 as Mrs Riches claimed.

Wife's death referred to DPP

A coroner said yesterday that the Director of Public Prosecutions should decide whether a man who allowed his wife to starve to death should face charges.

Mr Ronald Butler, said as he adjourned an inquest at Penzance, Cornwall, that he could not rule out the possibility of crime in connection with the death of Mrs Monica Badcock, aged 59, of Steeple Lane, St Ives, Cornwall.

Her husband, Mr Ronald Badcock, aged 63, a retired gardener, failed to call a doctor and watched her die slowly.

In a written statement, Mr Badcock said his wife had begged him not to leave her for a moment, not even to call a doctor.

Theatres hope to sell 10 million seats

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

London's West End theatres expect to attract a total audience of 10 million this year. The boom has largely been caused by the upsurge in overseas tourism, notably from the United States, according to the Society of West End Theatre.

Tickets sales at the main London theatres have been running at more than 10 per cent above 1983's figures, Mr Bob Swash, the society's president, said yesterday.

The West End box office returns show a steady growth in audience over the past three years. Last year, nine million people visited London theatres. "Last year we were optimistic in our forecasts for 1984 and we are delighted that this has been vindicated in the year so far", Mr Swash said.

"Although we cannot rely in the long term on overseas tourists to fill our theatres, all the signs are that 1985 will be as successful for us as this year."

Cheap tickets are thought to have proved an important factor in attracting foreign tourists.

The society is to concentrate its future marketing strategy on attracting the British theatregoer, particularly people living in London. A recent survey showed that a third of British adults go to the theatre at least once a year, accounting for sales of nearly 40 million tickets. Mr Swash denied that the present glut of American musical revivals in the West End was unhealthy, but expressed the wish that more new British writers were represented.

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Forensic Sciences conference

New turn in Cliff controversy

From Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent, Oxford

The aftermath of the controversy over Dr Alan Cliff, the discredited forensic scientist, which has caused a "heart-searching" among his former colleagues, took a new turn yesterday.

Support came from an Edinburgh criminologist for the view held by many forensic scientists that good expert witnesses give only what is demanded of them. Control of the evidence then lies with the lawyer. Dr Carol Goodwin Jones, of the Centre of Criminology, Edinburgh University, told the International Association

of Forensic Sciences meeting in Oxford yesterday. "That was quite legitimate since it was the advocate's job to present the information which made up his case and the lawyer had a duty to the client to present the best possible case. Any expert who tried to introduce into his evidence information not sought by his own or opposing counsel might stand the risk of being classed by lawyers as a 'bad expert witness'."

An expert who did not follow the legal rules of the game might thus not be used again as an expert, even though he might

still be a good forensic scientist. If being a good expert witness meant leaving the lawyer in charge, it also meant acquiescing when lawyers chose to highlight some things and omit others, since the assumption that one is dependent on the lawyer for interpretation of the rules meant that one did not see it as part of the expert's job to butt in.

"However if at some future date it is discovered that through no fault of his own the expert gave incomplete evidence it is he and not the lawyer who pays the high price in terms of professional downfall."

Laud's ghost returns to haunts of academe

Charles I. The Rev William Spooner (of Spoonerism fame), and Archbishop Laud, Chancellor of Oxford in the seventeenth century, have one thing in common - they have revisited their old haunts, according to witnesses, it was reported yesterday.

Charles I was seen by a colonel's wife during the war at St John's College, near which she saw a regiment in the uniform of the Civil War drawn up. A slight figure, which she took to be the king, came out to inspect them.

Mrs Pat Townson, Domestic Bursar of Queen College, said yesterday that when she gave a talk on an earlier occasion a

man came up and said he had seen a similar figure in velvet, also in St John's in about 1946.

The organizer at New College thought he saw The Rev William Spooner in his old stall in 1962.

St John's was also the scene of sightings of Laud. In 1974 when thefts led to a tightening of security at the library at Queen's, an old man in a long coat was seen following an undergraduate. When the doors of the library were shut and everyone left the old man, who had not left, was not there. A librarian recognized him from a portrait. He had died in 1900.

Lightning victims can often be resuscitated

People can be resuscitated after lightning has apparently killed them, according to Dr T. C. Chao, a senior forensic pathologist from Singapore, where "thunderstorms" are common.

"There are many cases on record which are brought back from death and survive without residual damage, though vital functions have been absent for some time" after lightning injury, he told the conference.

Dr Chao, who with colleagues studied details of 80 deaths in 24 years, said that young people were more prone to be hit by lightning as they were more often outdoors.

Scrap common entrance, headmasters told

From Colin Hughes, Brighton

Independent and public schools should scrap the common entrance examination taken by pupils applying from preparatory schools, the new chairman of the Headmasters' Conference said yesterday.

Mr David Emms, Master of Dulwich College, told headmasters of fee-paying schools at their annual conference that he thought it quite extraordinary that pupils aged 13 should be subjected to three or four days of examinations for entry into a school which would probably accept them anyway.

"It is also in my view educationally indefensible to start children of eight years of age on common entrance papers and give them an encouraging test if they score 6 or 7 per cent."

He told the traditionalists that he believed common entrance limited creativity and prevented more exciting exploratory and project work, particularly among pupils aged 11 to 13.

He preferred a one-day examination at 11-plus for pupils at independent schools, leaving the next two years for children to learn a wider range of subjects.

Most of the 225 independent school head teachers are likely to view Mr Emms's proposal with grave scepticism. If they would not accept that, he suggested at least agreeing to abandon scholarships, using the money to help less-well-off children to attend public schools instead.

Mr Emms also criticized public schools' "abysmal" re-

cord on providing industry with staff and managers. Though independent schools have "produced marvellous merchant bankers, solicitors, accountants, and lawyers", their pupils had largely been denied access to "the main artery of our national life".

He urged headmasters to break the "vicious circle of misunderstanding" between schools and industry, and mentioned staff at Hursley, a textile mill near Winchester, and at Broomfield, a car works near Epsom. Other schools, such as Malvern, had introduced courses in leadership skills.

State schools were overtaking public schools in their drive to train better teachers and assess their quality, despite initiatives at Cheltenham, Harrow, and Tonbridge, he said. There was a "palpable danger" that independent schools "might become complacent or relax our vigorous administration of our schools" because the political threat to the survival of independent schools has faded in recent years.

Mr Emms, however, warned delegates at the conference at the University of Sussex, Brighton, against the "erratic" ideas about authority of teachers which had been pushed over the past 25 years.

The teacher should be respected, however popular or democratic he or she may be, he said, adding "Perhaps there has been too much sociology and psychology of education and too little of classroom craft".



Up she rises: A £40,000 one-fifth scale model of Captain Cook's ship The Endeavour is lifted from a shed at Whitby, North Yorkshire, where it was secretly built by a shipwright, Mr Hugh Gollightly, from the original 220-year-old plans. Mr John Tindale, director of the Endeavour project, said the model, paid for by Legal and General Insurance, was the first step towards the £2m building of a copy of The Endeavour due to start next year in Whitby Harbour. The miniature is to hang in the Cleveland Centre, Middlesbrough, and the proposed copy, due to be funded by the KEC and international sponsorship, is seen as an important tourist attraction for Whitby.

Honduran democracy in danger

US Central American policy at stake as coup fears grow

From Alan Tomlinson, Tegucigalpa

The fledgling democracy in Honduras, on which the integrity of United States policy in Central America largely depends, is lurching into a deep constitutional crisis to which there appears to be no ready solution.

All political parties agree that next year's general elections are heading for a fiasco and may not take place at all, opening the way for President Roberto Suazo Córdoba, seen as the principal architect of the crisis, to extend his term for another year.

There are widespread rumours of an impending coup. To torpedo American policy with a military takeover would almost certainly cost the country the multi-million dollar US aid that sustains its economy.

Yet there is growing speculation that the Army may soon find itself with no choice but to support "a technical coup, Panama-style" which would replace Dr Suazo with some kind of provisional government.

The crisis arises from Dr Suazo's meddling in the internal affairs of the main opposition National Party and his blatant manipulation of a new national voter registration programme to favour his own Liberal Party.

A Western diplomat said: "Suazo has spent the last two-and-a-half years consolidating his power. He hasn't been governing the country."

A result, the economy has gone from bad to worse, forcing the President to dismiss his economic cabinet twice this year, the last time at the insistence of the military.

A source close to the military said: "People would accept a coup. But the traditional solution doesn't suit the geopolitical situation."

"If it wasn't for the need of the United States to have a

continuing democracy here Suazo wouldn't have lasted 18 months."

Mr John Negroponte, the US Ambassador, told local businessmen recently that Honduras was "an important model for democracy and tranquillity" in the region. "We in the United States have a great interest in the success of its constitutional system."

Talk of a coup was described by one US diplomat as "alarmist nonsense". But he added: "I think that to continue into a second term would be the biggest single mistake this Government could make."

President Suazo's main rival within the Liberal Party, Señor Jesse Azcona del Hoyo, re-elected as Transport Minister last year in protest at the "humane" way internal elections were carried out. Dr Suazo is accused by the National Party of suborning a large section of its own congressmen with political

favours and "by a series of manoeuvres... imposing a spurious party leadership which obeys his wishes."

The tactic has converted the National Congress into a rubber stamp assembly, in which even the combined votes of dissident Liberals, loyal Nationalists and two much smaller parties could not hope to defeat the anticipated constitutional amendment extending the President's term to six years.

The opposition also accuses the Government of slowing voter registration in areas where the National Party is supported, while facilitating the process in Liberal strongholds.

Señor Azcona del Hoyo, an expert on Honduran politics, expects considerable support when he seeks the Liberal presidential nomination in April, and who visits the United States this month at the invitation of the State Department, said that what looked like becoming an election fiasco would have repercussions in the entire area.

"The United States had pinned high hopes on the democratisation of Honduras so that from here it might radiate to the other countries: to Nicaragua, in the hope that the revolution might return to the democratic path; to Guatemala that there might be a return to civilian government; and to El Salvador where the situation in Honduras might have a positive effect. If we fall here, all falls."

Most observers feel a straightforward military takeover is unlikely. More likely would be Dr Suazo's early removal in favour of a transitional government including the Army, charged with restoring the economy and the elections.

"Either he puts things right or, after Reagan's reelection, he goes," said a respected analyst. "If he does go there will be dancing in the streets."



Dr Suazo: Held responsible for political crisis

Falklands issue at UN

Alfonsín insists on sovereignty talks

From Zoriana Pysarski, New York

President Raul Alfonsín of Argentina has categorically ruled out an Anglo-Argentine reconciliation and normalisation of relations as long as the British Government continues to refuse to negotiate sovereignty talks.

In an address to the United Nations General Assembly on the first day of the general debate, he emphasized Argentina's intention to recover the Falklands "through peaceful means only."

But later at a press conference, the President declined to take that pledge a step further, and he ruled out the possibility of Argentina declaring a formal cessation of hostilities as long as Britain kept up the exclusion zone around and a military presence in the Falklands.

Señor Alfonsín said that his Government's peaceful approach should not diminish the sense of mission that lay behind efforts by the Argentines to recover the island, a mandate that had been handed down through generations.

He described the British Government as intransigent and said its failure to understand that right was on the side of Argentina and its inability to comprehend the depth of national feeling about the Falklands was at the root of the problem between the two countries.

The British Government has repeatedly stated that it is ready to discuss anything with Argentina but the sovereignty of the Falklands. It is expected to continue in its unbending approach, despite the unpopularity of its position in the General Assembly, lest Argentina misconstrues any ambiguous pronouncements as a change in London's attitude.

President Alfonsín said that.

British diplomats hope that eventually the international community, while not agreeing with this stand, will accept it. Argentina seeks the restoration of friendly relations with Britain.

From the beginning of the attempts towards normalisation, we lack the certainty that a mechanism will be established to allow negotiation on the sovereignty dispute.

He made only scant reference to the abortive Berni talks in July, merely stating that Argentina had shown maximum flexibility. When asked whether anything could be salvaged from the Berni fiasco, he insisted that at all multilateral forums and bilateral talks sovereignty must be on the agenda.

Argentina has begun circulating a draft resolution on the Falklands in preparation for the General Assembly debate later this year. Although the restoration of democracy in Argentina should enhance its position, the present draft was caused concern among the non-aligned and West Europeans for its strong language and failure to spell out clearly President Alfonsín's pledge not to resort to force to regain the island.



Señor Alfonsín: A respect for international law

Ex-army chiefs plead for Sikh deserters

From Kuldip Nayar, Delhi

Six former Indian Army commanders have written to President Zail Singh to request that the Sikh who deserted after the Punjab troubles are treated "sympathetically and leniently."

The retired generals say they are disturbed by reports that the Sikhs may be court-martialled as mutineers and deserters. The letter is signed by Lieutenant-General M. S. Wadalia, Harbakh Singh, J. S. Dhillon, J. S. Aurora and Saraj Singh. It is addressed to the president in his constitutional role as supreme commander of the defence forces.

According to the general, news of the army action on the Harmandir Sahib complex and rumours of the destruction of the Akal Takht sparked off a spontaneous reaction among some Sikhs.

Manila investigation into napalm bombing claim

From Keith Dutton, Manila

A parliamentary inquiry is to be held into allegations that napalm and chemical bombs have been used against Muslim rebels in the southern Philippines province of Lanao del Sur.

An international fact-finding mission of nine members said last week it had confirmed that chemical bombs had been dropped near two towns on August 5.

The Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace claimed that Air Force aircraft dropped canisters which released a thick black smoke.

People became dizzy and faint. They had difficulty breathing, complained of sore eyes and suffered stinging pain similar to pinpricks on their exposed skin. Monkeys and birds fell from trees and died, mission members reported.

The bombs were intended to land among Muslim rebels of the Moro National Liberation Front but affected civilians and

wildlife instead, a mission spokesman said.

Jan Ponce Enrile, the Defence Minister, said yesterday the Parliamentary Committee on Justice would investigate the allegations "to settle this matter once and for all."

Mr Enrile last week denied that the Government possessed napalm bombs, but admitted yesterday that an "inventory" of these bombs existed as well as the elements which could be used to make them. "But I have no knowledge of any instance where we have used these [bombs] in the past," Mr Enrile said.

A spokesman for General Fabian Ver, the armed forces Chief of Staff, also denied the use of chemical bombs. "We do not even have chemical weapons of that nature in our armoury," he said.

The mission said its members were unable to obtain soil and water samples from the area which had been cordoned off

Man jailed for attacking prostitute

A judge at the Central Criminal Court said yesterday that prostitutes must be protected from men who use them for sadistic and perverted sexual acts.

Simon Weatherley, aged 25, a driver, of Coburg Close, Streatham, south London, was jailed for two and a half years after pleading guilty to causing bodily harm to a prostitute, aged 23. He had whipped her, committed an act of buggery, and stolen £16.

Judge Hazan, QC, said that such activities constituted degradation of the prostitute. He added: "This girl had the guts to go to the police and complain."

Schoolboy given new heart

A boy aged 16 was said to be in a satisfactory condition yesterday after a five-hour heart transplant operation at Papworth Hospital, Cambridge.

Vincent Hill, a pupil at Whitgift School, Croydon, who lives in Carshalton Beches, south London, became ill in Canada last month. He has just passed 12 O levels.

Harrods bomb inquests date

The inquests on the three police officers and three other people who died in the Harrods bombing on December 17 last year will resume at Westminster coroner's court on November 14.

The victims were a journalist, Mr Philip Geddes, aged 24, of Lambeth, south London; housewife, Mrs Caroline Kennedy-Cochrane, aged 25, of St John's Wood, north London; a management consultant, Mr Kenneth Salveson, aged 31, of Westminster; WPC Jane Arbuthnot, of Kingston; Sergeant Noel Lane, of Croydon; and Insp Stephen Dodd, of Carshalton.

Director's death was an accident

An accidental death verdict was recorded at St Pancras coroner's court, north London, yesterday on Alan Schneider, aged 66, the American theatre director, who died from head injuries four days after being knocked down by a motor cycle at Swiss Cottage, London, on April 30.

£100m urged for science education

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

About £100m a year more must be spent on engineering and science education, and the University Grants Committee should be forced by the Government to reserve money for such courses, the Engineering Council says.

The council was responding yesterday to a report on higher education published two weeks ago by the committee. The council recommends a 10 per cent swing from arts to sciences over five years which would provide another £100m engineering places.

Dr Kenneth Miller, Director General of the Engineering Council said: "The UGC does not go far enough. The UGC has not addressed the question of earmarking its alone put a recommendation on it to the Secretary of State."

The National Economic Development Office has repeated that the trade deficit in high technology products, which is now more than £800m a year, must be curbed and more engineers will be required

Calke Abbey repair appeal is launched

The Duchess of Devonshire yesterday launched a £250,000 appeal for the National Trust's latest acquisition, Calke Abbey in Derbyshire, whose crumbling stonework and dry rot required repairs costing £3.5m.

The house has been described as a time capsule because its contents have lain undisturbed for almost a century. People who decide to help rescue it will for the first time be given the chance by the National Trust to choose which of the five schemes they would like to help. Those are repairs to the abbey; the stables and visitors' facilities; the church tree planting in the park; and the conservation of the contents and carriages.

Conservation work has to be carried out on pictures, books, furniture, textiles, and metalwork before they are returned to the house in settings restored exactly as they were.

The National Trust is contributing £1m of which the £250,000 in the appeal has still to be raised.

Accountant distressed by discord

A carillon has struck a discordant note with chartered accountants at Spalding, Lincolnshire over its renderings of "Danny Boy" and "The Lincolnshire Poacher".

The carillon plays such tunes on mechanical bells every lunchtime and on market days from the top of a community centre in the market place. Mr Anthony Moore, the town's senior partner with Messrs. Moore, Roberts & Co., would tell you that it lacks the required raised seventh in A minor and some of the tunes are therefore objectionable to the ear. A simple mouth organ has the same problem.

Mr Moore has asked its owner, South Holland District Council, to restrict the carillon's playing to market days.

Mr Chris Whitney, the Council's technical officer, said that the roll containing the folk tunes was incompatible with the machine.

Chill of closure hangs over village school

By Michael Horsnell



Class of 84: Pupils at Boughton County Primary School in Norfolk with Mr Terry Froud, the headmaster (Photograph: John Voss)

The marigolds are still blooming in the early autumn chill beside the schoolhouse at Boughton, inside, by the coal fire lit by Mrs Savage, the school cleaner at 6.30am.

The 28 infants and juniors are busy working at a variety of tasks involving the three Rs. Through the Victorian windows a colony of cots may be seen splashing around the edges of the village pond beside the brightly painted sign which proclaims Boughton the best kept village in Norfolk.

With the exception of the classroom computer, which rests on a table by the fireplace, there is scarcely anything about the school which the class of 188 - Boughton County Primary's inaugural year - would fail to recognize.

Unhappily though, neither the ghosts of that generation nor the children of today are likely to be able to celebrate this industrious little school's impending centenary.

Last week, to the dismay of parents, Mr Terry Froud, the devoted headmaster, received the telephone call which confirmed his worst fears.

After a so-called consultative meeting with parents 10 days earlier, a minor local education subcommittee had decided to recommend to an education subcommittee of Norfolk County Council at Norwich that it should recommend to the education committee that consideration be given to closing the school.

The date of proposed execution: 1986. Thereafter it is proposed that the village children will go by bus to the small town of Stoke Ferry near by where a new community centre will have been completed.

The 188 inhabitants of Boughton are apprehensive not only about their children's future but also about the effect closure will have on the village. Like the Council for the Protection of Rural England, the inhabitants believe that closure of the village school represents one of the longest nails in the coffin of rural life.

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The unaudited profits for the half year ended 30 April 1984 amount to £568,841 (1983: £460,148).

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The material improvement in profits I forecast in my last annual statement should be achieved. Liquidity is good. Your Directors have declared an interim dividend in respect of the year ending 31 October 1984 of 8.855%. This is an increase of 10% over last year and will be paid on 8 November 1984.

	Half Year to 30 April 1984	Half Year to 30 April 1983
Turnover	£23,168,755	£17,633,641
Profit before and after tax	£568,841	£460,148
Interim dividend declared	8.855%	8.05%
Amount absorbed by this dividend	£100,747	£91,464

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President's 'lame-excuses' attacked

Reagan seeks \$371m to protect embassies after Beirut bombing

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

The State Department is asking Congress urgently to approve \$371m (£300m) to improve security at US embassies throughout the world after last week's terrorist bombing in Beirut.

A spokesman said the Administration wanted the money for improved barriers, for new embassies being built in high-risk areas and for armoured vehicles and control of public access.

Mr Thomas "Tip" O'Neill, Speaker of the House of Representatives, told reporters he had asked three house committees to investigate last week's bombing and get to the bottom of how this tragedy could happen in the same manner, in the same city, three times in 18 months.

President Reagan, referring on Sunday to incomplete security measures, said in New York that anyone that's ever

had their kitchen done over knows that it never gets done as soon as you wish it would."

Mr O'Neill said that the President has given a "stupid alibi for the destruction of our embassy in Beirut". He accused the Administration of providing phoney alibis and lame excuses for why adequate security was not in place.

The Senate foreign relations committee is also expected to investigate the bombing.

Mr Walter Mondale, the Democratic presidential candidate, told an election meeting in Texas on Monday that "being President and countering terrorists is a much more difficult task than fixing up your kitchen."

Mrs Geraldine Ferraro, the Democratic vice-presidential candidate, found the President's remark "unbelievable, particularly when one considers the tragic loss of lives."

"Mr Reagan's statement is a totally inappropriate comparison and reflects the fact that the President does not truly understand the situation in the Middle East."

Plans to upgrade security at US embassies were first drawn up in 1979 in the wake of mob attacks on American missions in Pakistan, Iran and Libya.

The programme called for improving security at 125 sites at a cost of \$192m. But some buildings were dropped from the programme.

TEL AVIV: Mr Richard Murphy, United States Assistant Secretary of State, had talks with Israeli leaders yesterday about the situation in Lebanon and both sides cautioned the public against exaggerated expectations of an early withdrawal of Israeli troops from south Lebanon (Moshe Brilliant writes).

The Israeli media had been optimistic after reports that the US was mediating and that Syria was prepared to cooperate in the diplomatic effort.

Mr Murphy, who arrived in Jerusalem after meetings in Beirut and Damascus, met Mr Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, and Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Defence Minister. He told reporters after the meeting that his mission was "exploratory, not more than that".

He added the US was ready to be helpful where possible if requested by all parties involved.

Mr Peres, in a radio interview, said he did not expect negotiations with the Syrians but a tacit understanding limited in scope and area was possible.

Comparing Damascus with Beirut, Mr Peres said: "You can reach an agreement with the Syrians without negotiations and as for the Lebanese, you can negotiate without getting an agreement."

He said experience on the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights and in Lebanon itself showed an understanding can be reached with the Syrians "almost without negotiations".

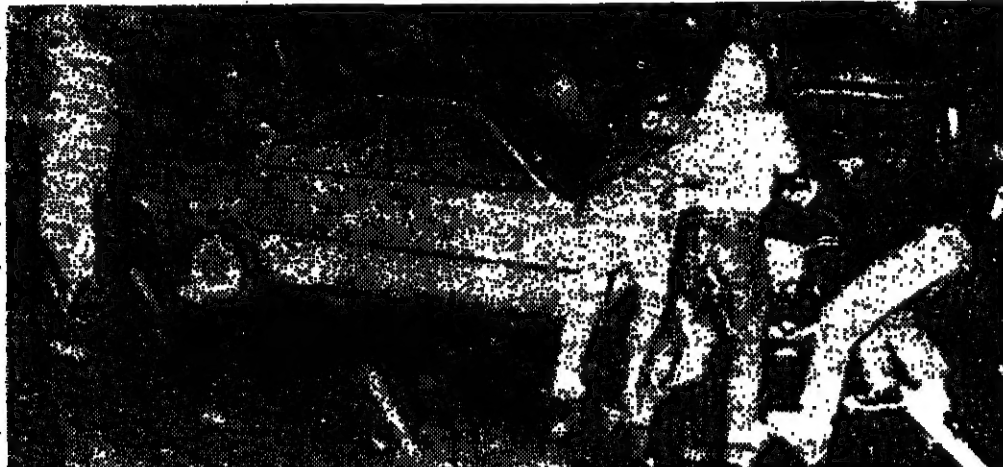
There was no conflict between what they perceived to be their own interest and Israel's.

After his Israel talks, Mr Murphy flew to Cairo for exploratory exchanges with Egyptian leaders.

Fury over ETA extradition



Banners and barricades: Demonstrators expressing solidarity with ETA near the French Embassy in Madrid yesterday and (below) blocking a rain-soaked Bilbao street with a car in an earlier protest.



Spain braced for reprisals

Security has been tightened throughout Spain because of the violent reaction to the French decision to extradite three ETA members and two anniversaries in the next week which are cherished by Basque separatists.

Tomorrow marks the day in 1975 when General Franco ordered the public executions of extremists - two ETA members and three members of GRAP, a guerrilla organization which relinquished its campaign of violence with the advent of democracy.

The second anniversary on Monday recalls October 1, 1975, when the First of October Anti-Fascist Resistance Groups (Grapo) first made its appearance, killing four policemen.

Meanwhile, the Herri Batasuna party, considered ETA's political arm, has called for a general strike in the Basque

region from today in protest at the French decision.

There have been dozens of clashes between ETA sympathizers and police. In Bilbao, barricades were erected yesterday and on Monday. Petrol bombs and stones were hurled at riot police who answered with tear gas and rubber bullets.

There have been 26 arrests in Bilbao and at least seven people have been taken to hospital with serious injuries. Further north on the Basque coast, demonstrators tore up railings surrounding the Government's local party headquarters in Mondragon. Protesters also broke bank windows and burnt a bus in San Sebastian.

A car with French number plates was overturned and destroyed in Pamplona, the capital of Navarre, and, in a surprising show of solidarity in

the neighbouring region of Galicia, 40 members of a left-wing nationalist group occupied the French consulate in Vigo for more than an hour yesterday morning, leaving a note of protest against the ETA extraditions.

More police were sent to the Basque country yesterday and security for government members and leading politicians was doubled.

PARIS: The extradition decision has provoked little violence in France, with demonstrations limited to a core of Basque nationalists (Our Correspondent writes).

The Toulouse-Irun train was stopped yesterday after a bomb threat from a group called the Basque Support Committee. Passengers were removed while the train was searched.

Optimism in Lisbon over EEC

From Martha de la Cal, Lisbon

Optimism was the keynote of talks between Dr Garret FitzGerald, the Irish Prime Minister, who was in Lisbon in his capacity as President of the European Community, and Dr Mario Soares, the Portuguese Prime Minister, concerning problems related to Portugal's entry into the EEC.

At the end of two days of talks, Dr FitzGerald said yesterday that discussion of the terms of enlargement was now in its final, decisive stage. He believed that many of the problems would be resolved at the meeting of Community heads on October 2.

He said he hopes an agreement of intent can be signed with Portugal by the end of October.

Dr Soares was also optimistic. "We now know we will enter. It is an irreversible fact. After all of the points are worked out, we will become members by the beginning of 1986," he said.

The date set at the Fontainebleau meeting for the conclusion of talks that would lead to the signing of a final agreement was September 30, but that deadline became unrealistic, Dr FitzGerald said.

It was known at the time that the deadline could not be strictly adhered to, but it was "useful to bring pressure on the ministers to make progress and they have made progress".

Dr FitzGerald said fishing rights were a general question "for which a solution must be found which will be satisfactory to everyone, including the Spaniards." He had just received a long, detailed proposal which would be studied.

"It is a matter of some complexity," he said, "but we have constantly met this kind of problem and have always overcome them."

Disneyland staff go on strike

Los Angeles - Nearly 2,000 employees at California's Disneyland went on strike yesterday although the management vowed to keep the amusement park open.

The employees rejected Disneyland's contract offer, which would freeze wages for two years. Union officials said they were still negotiating, but a Disneyland spokesman said the park might hire new staff.

Rapist jailed

Bankok (AFP) - A Thai court has sentenced a fisherman to three years' imprisonment for raping a Vietnamese woman refugee in the Gulf of Thailand more than a year ago. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees announced here. He was only the ninth person convicted of preying on the "boat people" since June, 1982.

Gandhi priority

Delhi (Reuters) - Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, called yesterday for more reliable methods of birth control when she addressed a World Health Organization meeting here.

Drug sentence

Los Angeles (Reuters). William Herick, the aircraft engineer and pilot accused with John DeLoe of drug offences has been sentenced to 10 years in jail. Mr DeLoe was acquitted last month on all counts.

Gang busters

Taipei (Reuters) - More than 1,500 gangsters have surrendered to police during a four-month amnesty which ended yesterday. Taiwan's Interior Minister, Mr Wu Po-ling, said.

Chad pull-out begins

Njamena (AFP) - French troops in Chad have evacuated their northernmost garrisons, at Salal and Arada, the local commander, General Yves Bechut, said yesterday.

The two garrisons each made up of 80 men and about 15 vehicles, returned to their regional bases at Moussourou and Biltine, 125 miles and 50 miles farther south.

Sources confirmed that about 15 Senegalese observers are on their way to Njamena and 15 others are en route to Bardai, in the far north of Chad, to oversee the withdrawal.

France has sent 3,000 soldiers to Chad to support the regime of Mr Hissene Habre in the south of the country, while Libya sent an estimated 5,000 to support guerrillas of the ousted president, Mr Goukouni Oueddei, in the north.

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Durban consulate deadlock

Liberal media condemn Pretoria's retaliatory action as self-defeating

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Three convicted in spy trial

The first response here to South Africa's retaliatory action against Britain, for its refusal to hand over the six fugitives from the security police hiding in the British Consulate in Durban, has been sharply critical.

Pretoria is seen to have seriously damaged relations with Britain, and with the rest of the EEC, to no good purpose indeed. Its action is generally regarded as making the resolution of the consulate imbroglio harder rather than easier.

The announcement by Mr R. F. Botha, the Foreign Minister, late on Monday night that it would not return to Britain four South Africans charged with arms smuggling came too late for editorial comment in yesterday morning's African papers.

Most reaction so far, therefore, has come from liberal English-language newspapers. They concentrated on the diplomatic consequences of South Africa's deliberate breach of a solemn undertaking before a British court to return the four for trial.

The Pretoria News said the Government had "thrown out of the window its good record in honouring its undertakings and the letter of the law, without resolving the consulate crisis."

Cape Town's afternoon newspaper, *The Argus*, said South Africa had given a legally and morally binding undertaking that they would be sent back to stand trial. By contrast, the six men in the consulate had not been charged with any offence and faced detention without trial.

Pretoria's action, *The Argus* declared, would merely heighten "international condemnation" of the plight of the consulate refugees, and undo whatever good that had been achieved by the tour of Europe

Progressive Federal Party (PFP), the main opposition in the white chamber of Parliament, condemned Pretoria's behaviour as "irresponsible and unwarranted" interference in Britain's internal affairs.

"There is no relationship whatsoever between the six seeking refuge in Durban and forfeiting bail, which will be taxpayers' money, for the four who are charged with arms dealing in Britain," he said.

South Africa's defence of its action, as set out on Monday night by the Foreign Minister, is that Britain has violated the Vienna Convention on consular relations by allowing its consulate to be used to obstruct the enforcement of South African law against its own citizens.

It is irrelevant, in Pretoria's view, whether Britain or any other country considers the law in question to be just or unjust. It is South African law passed by the South African Parliament, and South Africa has the right to enforce it.

What seems certain is that Britain will be under even stronger pressure at home now not to hand over the Durban six over to the South Africans. That means that South Africa may have to consider forcible entry of the consulate, or its closure, if it is to get the men out, although it still officially denies that such action is being contemplated.

The Natal Indian Congress, five of whose leaders are in the consulate, yesterday declared: "It is invidious and absurd to compare the four... with the Durban six who have made a brave stand for the rule of law."

They faced detention under the "harsh and cruel provisions" of the Internal Security Act imposed by an arbitrary and unjust ministerial decree, "the statement added.

Charges against them included being members of, conspiring with and furthering the aims of the banned African National Congress and having passed on information and documents to ANC members in Botswana.

last June by Mr P. W. Botha, the South African President.

The Johannesburg evening newspaper, *The Star*, commented: "South Africa is now in the dock. It is difficult for those defending our country's action to argue that the case of the four and the incident involving the six can be linked."

An editorial in *Die Vaderland*, a Pretoria afternoon newspaper indicated the more supportive position likely to be adopted by the Afrikaans press. Britain's "passive" attitude towards the consulate fugitives had left Pretoria no choice but to take counter action, it said.

Mr Alex Boraine, a foreign affairs spokesman for the

taken before Mr Justice Leonard in High Court chambers in London, and the bail conditions were changed. The men were permitted to leave Britain on condition that they returned for a further court hearing in Coventry in June. Bail of £200,000, £50,000 each, was to be lodged with the court.

In addition, "sureties of £50,000 each were to be raised and those were stood by Mr Andre Pelsler, the first secretary at the South African Embassy in London, who had waived diplomatic immunity.

The four men left Britain but returned for the June hearing, when Coventry magistrates reimposed the judge's conditions. They were bailed to appear again on October 22, but have not returned since. Their passports are still being held in Britain, and it has not been decided whether the full case would be dealt with by magistrates or by trial.

The four Britons have been remanded on bail. The South Africans are: Mr Hendrik Botha, aged 49, a company director; Mr Stephanus de Jager, aged 49, a financier; Mr

William Metelerkamp, aged 42, a managing director and Mr Jacobus Jan Graaue, aged 38, an engineer.

The Englishmen are: Mr Derek Salt, aged 59, of Coventry, described as managing director, D. W. Salt Engineering, Coventry; Mr Michael Gardner, aged 55, of Colyford, Devon, chairman of D. W. Salt and director, Fossway Securities, of Seaton, Devon; Mr Michael Swann, aged 33, an export buyer of Royston, Herts and Mr Henry Coles of Bath, who did not appear in court in Coventry because of ill health.

Mr Botha was charged with illegally exporting high pressure gas cylinders with intent to evade export prohibition relating to South Africa. The other three South Africans were charged with illegally exporting magnetrons, allegedly for use in radar systems. The charges related to a day in December, 1981 at Heathrow airport.

The four Britons were charged with evading UN prohibitions on the export of military and strategic goods to South Africa.

However, their case was then

How the accused left England

By Craig Seton

The four South Africans were due to appear before Coventry magistrates again on October 22, together with four Englishmen, charged with evading United Nations prohibitions on the export of strategic goods to South Africa. Components for anti-missile systems were allegedly involved.

Customs and Excise, which brought the case after inquiries by its investigation branch, said yesterday that the case would go ahead regardless of the South African Government's decision. It would wait to see if the four men reappeared.

The four South Africans first appeared in court in Coventry in April and were described then as a company director, a financier, a managing director and an engineer.

They were remanded in custody then and on further occasions until their release on bail of £25,000 each, on condition that their passports were surrendered, the South African Government had not issued alternative travel documents and they lived at a London address.

However, their case was then

taken before Mr Justice Leonard in High Court chambers in London, and the bail conditions were changed. The men were permitted to leave Britain on condition that they returned for a further court hearing in Coventry in June. Bail of £200,000, £50,000 each, was to be lodged with the court.

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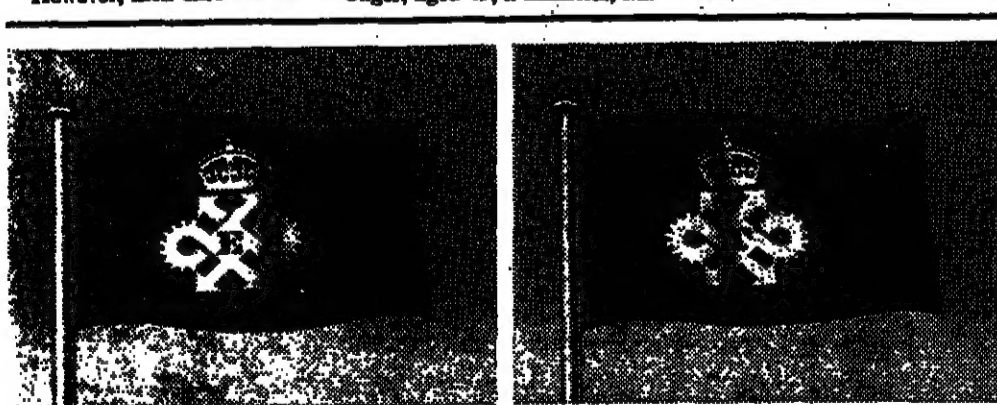
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The Queen's Awards 1985.



Mirth behind the mask: Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, refuses to pose for a photograph as he awaits President Reagan's arrival in the UN General Assembly but turns to Moscow's representative at the world body, Mr Oleg Troyanovsky, and breaks into an uncharacteristic smile.

Afghan tells of Kabul bloodshed

Delhi (AP)—Three members of the Afghan national football team have defected to India, and one of them, a medical doctor, said yesterday could he no longer endure the "night of children" wounded in "Soviet aggression against his homeland."

Muhammad Bahadur Alikhal, aged 24, said he could not tolerate "conditions at the Afghan Children's Institute in Kabul where he worked because of fighting and mortar attacks in and around the city. The hospital was frequently without electricity and instruments could not be sterilized.

"It was horrible to see small children with their fingers and arms and legs blown off by personnel mines," he said.

Secrecy plea in Aquino inquiry

Manila (AFP)—Two lawyers have petitioned the Philippine Supreme Court to prevent release of the findings of the board investigating the murder of Benigno Aquino, on the ground that any disclosure might destabilize the Government. Chads would result, they agreed, whether the board upheld or challenged the official version that a communist killed Aquino, the opposition leader.

Allende claim

Santiago (AFP)—The former doctor of Salvador Allende, the Chilean President overthrown by the military in 1973, claimed in a magazine interview that the Socialist leader committed suicide and was not killed by soldiers. Dr. Patricio Guzman said he saw the President shoot himself in the head with his own sub-machine gun.

Czech defects

Reutlingen, West Germany (AP)—A 20-year-old Czechoslovak swimmer, Ondrej Krenek, defected during an international competition and requested political asylum in West Germany. He is the fifth Czech swimmer to defect in Germany since 1982.

Volcano terror

Legaspi City, Philippines (AFP)—The Mayon volcano continued to rage the surrounding countryside yesterday, forcing 12,400 more people to flee from lava and boiling mud cascading down its slopes. Refugees from the disaster now total 42,400.

Russian ban

Tel Aviv (Reuters)—Soviet authorities have refused visas for 10 Israeli journalists to cover a Davis Cup tennis tie in Donetsk between Israel and the Soviet Union, Israeli tennis officials said. But another decision to bar the team's Australian coach has been reversed after protests.

High-speed link

Paris—The first high-speed train link between Lille and Lyons that avoids Paris was officially inaugurated yesterday by M Jean Auroux, Secretary of State for Transport. Travel time will be 4 hours 39 minutes.

Diamond raid

Brussels (AFP)—Four masked gunmen walked off with diamonds valued at more than £4m in Antwerp after gagging and chloroforming a diamond cutter in his shop.

Mondale questions Reagan's offer

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

President Reagan's highly conciliatory speech to the United Nations General Assembly on Monday appears to have gone some way towards convincing domestic and foreign critics that he is sincere in wanting a more constructive relationship with the Soviet Union.

However, there remains some scepticism as to whether he will continue to be as enthusiastic about improving ties between Washington and Moscow once the presidential election is over.

There is some suspicion among diplomats at the UN and among the President's Democratic opponents that his proposal for a long-term framework to chart the course of arms control talks may be little more than an election ploy.

Mr Reagan has come in for strong criticism recently for his failure to negotiate any significant arms control agreements during the past three-and-a-half years and the absence of any meetings between himself and top Soviet officials (although he is due to have talks with Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, on Friday).

Mr Walter Mondale, the Democratic presidential challenger, articulated those criticisms yesterday when he asked why the President had suddenly "changed his spots" only 44 days before the election.

The President's critics fear that even if he has finally decided that the time is ripe to press for genuine arms reductions, he may be thwarted by hardliners in the Pentagon.

In the past the Pentagon has invariably gained the upper hand over the more conciliatory State Department in advising the President on arms control matters.

However, there is a widely-held view both among diplomats and politicians that the President should be given the benefit of the doubt and be allowed time to demonstrate his determination to seek a "new beginning" to end, as he put it, "the dread of nuclear war."

It was noted that the President has chosen an international forum for his speech. He was, in effect, making a pledge to seek a better relationship with Moscow before 158 other nations, not just a partisan political audience.

Kremlin speech by Chernenko

Writers told to toe the line

From Richard Owen, Moscow

President Chernenko insisted yesterday that Soviet writers and artists must toe the party line and adopt the Stalinist concept of socialist realism in the ideological struggle against the West. He also sent a chill up the spine of unorthodox intellectuals by attacking ideological deviance and demanding Marxist-Leninist art.

Speaking at a jubilee meeting of the Union of Writers in the Kremlin, Mr Chernenko, aged 73, said it was the duty of Soviet literature to "mould the ideological and moral frame of mind of the people". The meeting was held to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the founding congress of the Writers' Union, held in Moscow in 1934.

Mr Chernenko paid tribute to the Soviet writer Maxim Gorky who in 1934 formulated the concept of socialist realism. Mr Chernenko did not, however, mention that hundreds of members of the Writers' Union met their deaths in Stalin's labour camps and prisons in the 1930s. They included leading lights of Soviet literature such as Isaac Babel and Boris Pasternak.

Recalling his demand for ideological orthodoxy at the Central Committee plenum of June, 1983, before he became leader, Mr Chernenko said all Soviet writers must assert "the lofty ideals of socialism. This is the political meaning of socialist realism."

In recent years many Russian writers have abandoned "positive heroes" and earnest novels of industrial achievement for works depicting social conflicts and individual dilemmas in an attempt — much appreciated by Russian readers — to reflect the real problems of Soviet society.

In a discursive and sometimes rambling address Mr Chernenko recalled Lenin's demand for "sincerity in politics", and looked ahead to "distant objectives" such as the formulation of a new Communist Party programme for the next party congress in 1986.

"This may seem somewhat

abstract", Mr Chernenko remarked a little wistfully, perhaps thinking of his own uncertain health and political future. The Soviet leader said the party was counting on the "active help of the intelligentsia in resolutely doing away with outdated and obsolete views."

Laying down guidelines for Soviet literature, Mr Chernenko called for "truthful, full-blooded characters — men and women — selflessly devoted to the people and socialism, symbolizing the heroic construction of a new world."

He also demanded more books on "military-patriotic themes. We need a debate on the positive hero, although I, of course, am not going to interfere in it", Mr Chernenko said.

He attacked the West for talking about the benefits of East-West contracts while interfering in Soviet affairs and using lies and psychological warfare to influence Russians, especially the young.

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Moscow protests to UK over Bitov affair

The Kremlin yesterday formally protested to Britain over the alleged kidnapping and torture of Mr Oleg Bitov, the Soviet journalist, who defected to Britain a year ago but returned to Moscow last month.

David Ratford, the British Chargé d'Affaires in Moscow, was summoned to the Soviet Foreign Ministry yesterday for an "oral protest", a British Embassy spokesman said. As far as is known no written protest has been submitted to London.

Until now the Soviet authorities have held aloof from the Bitov affair, preferring to give the impression that Mr Bitov's allegations were personal rather than official. When he gave a press conference in Moscow last Tuesday Mr Bitov, a senior editor with the

While denying Soviet system demanded artistic uniformity and suppressed creative freedom, Mr Chernenko made a powerful attack on unorthodox Soviet writers. "It was naive", he said, "to think that one can blacken the moral and political foundations of our system and simultaneously expect benefits and recognition from it."

In an apparent reference to the case of Mr Oleg Bitov, the Soviet journalist who defected to Britain and returned to Moscow claiming he had been kidnapped and tortured, Mr Chernenko said the Soviet people "will not forgive anyone who defects to the side of our ideological opponents in the keen struggle under way in the world. There can be no two views on this account."

The Bitov case was used for propaganda advantage when he returned, but it has still embarrassed senior Soviet officials, not least because Mr Bitov's explanation was inept and unconvincing.

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A trial of nerve is certain

"Any agreement", he declared, "must logically depend upon our ability to get the competition in offensive arms under control and to achieve genuine stability as substantially lower levels of nuclear arms."

The lower interpretation of these words is that Mr Reagan is prepared to begin the negotiations with the militarization of space, but not to end them there. This means that he is not conceding the Soviet demand to treat that issue by itself.

There is no reason why he should. Moscow wants to concentrate on that because it is the area where it is at a technological disadvantage. Yet there is a link, of which the negotiations should take account, between defensive and offensive weaponry.

Yet it is well to be realistic. There is disagreement on the area to be covered before there can be a settlement. So there is bound to be a trial of nerve before the critical bargaining can begin.

This may well take some time. Certainly it would be wise to assume that it will because impatient men do not bargain well. The danger now is that Western opinion may expect too much too quickly.

Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

When I attended the Republican Convention in Dallas last month I concluded from my discussions that arms control would be a very high priority for a second Reagan Administration, but that there was no expectation of early success. The President's UN speech confirms the first of those assumptions, but does it weaken the second?

His proposals were far-reaching. If all of them were accepted, he would have gone further than any other American President to create diplomatic conditions in which such negotiations might succeed.

The point has been made to me, on previous visits to the United States by senior figures in the Washington foreign policy community, that arms talks were never likely to be fruitful so long as the two sides were talking seriously to each other only about arms. A broader atmosphere of confidence would have to be established first.

So now Mr Reagan is suggesting the exchange of military procurement plans, regular meetings at ministerial level to consider a range of issues beyond the direct concerns of foreign and defence ministers, and periodical discussions on regional trouble-spots. Mr Reagan can hardly be accused of going in for half measures.

Three reasons for doubts

But has he increased the chances of an early settlement? There were three reasons for the doubts in Dallas. A nuclear arms agreement, that would be more than diplomatic cosmetics would have to be negotiated with the greatest care, the Soviet leadership is in a transitional period with nobody apparently in a position to take radical decisions in Moscow, and a school of thought in the United States is questioning whether technological developments have not made it impossible to verify that any nuclear pact is being fully observed.

While this line of criticism is not regarded as imposing a veto, it would require the Administration to take considerable precautions so as to guard itself from the charge of having sold out American safety.

The first of these doubts is a truism which no President of the United States could safely ignore: the more substantive the settlement, the longer the negotiations are likely to take.

But if the United States and the Soviet Union were really to exchange military procurement plans, that would presumably go some way to ease the anxiety over verification. There is, however, a paradox here. The more radical the proposal for disclosing information, the more it would meet the problem of verification, the less likely it is to be accepted. That is especially true at a time of uncertain leadership in Moscow.

The disclosures would surely have to be very full before either side could be convinced that the other was being frank. There is another reason why progress may be slow. Although Mr Reagan is not imposing conditions about the Soviet desire to talk about the militarization of space which covers his "star wars" scheme for anti-missile defence — he is not willing to reach an agreement on that issue alone.

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Banker back in trial in

From Jon Roal
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Press accused of exaggerating army terror against Tamils

From Michael Hamlyn, Colombo

The excesses of the Sri Lankan armed forces in the north of the island are "not as serious as the world's press is making out," according to the minister responsible for national security and defence, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali.

He also believes the troops are winning the battle against the Tamil extremists seeking to establish a breakaway state in the north and east. He said, in a long interview, that being tough militarily "actually helps a political solution" of the ethnic problems of the country.

Defending the armed forces against Tamil accusations of indiscipline and making reprisals, Mr Athulathmudali said the reaction of the troops was being controlled in all but a few cases.

"All armies have to face this from time to time. The British faced it in Londonderry. They had a very serious problem in that year, but gradually they have managed to get over it. I think we have got over it as far as facing gunshots. But the bomb phenomenon we are in the process of getting over."

The minister, who is also official spokesman for the all-party round-table talks aimed at producing a political solution to the conflict, defended the proposals emerging from the conference against attacks by the Tamil spokesmen.

"The Tulu (Tamil United Liberation Front) don't understand what they are talking about," he said the second chamber proposed in the document issued by President Jayewardene was not a way of further centralizing government, as alleged by Mr Appapillai Amirthalingam, the front's secretary.

but a way round a constitutional problem.

"You cannot devolve power under our constitution," Mr Athulathmudali said. "The second chamber is a way by which executive power covering a unit area can be given by the President without affecting the constitution."

Devolving power affected the unitary character of the state, whereas creation of a second chamber merely affected the style of the legislature. The minister had been advised that a referendum would not be needed in the latter case - a referendum that might well be lost if the Sinhalese population saw it as any kind of step towards autonomy for the Tamils.

"What we are trying is to put up a clothesline on which to hang a whole range of compromises to resolve the problem." Similarly, the proposals for inter-district coordinating units were a way of trying to get away from the traditional homogeneity in which each name - regional council, provincial council, district council - carried its own burden of built-in hostility.

"Today you are in the situation that people are not prepared to discuss any of the proposals on their merits. Neither the Tulu, nor anyone else. They have got fixed positions."

"If you can put it all aside, and discuss the issue on its merits you will find some common ground."

Whether or not Mr Athulathmudali's exhortations will have any effect may well be seen on Sunday, when the all-party talks continue in plenary session, for each party to give its reactions to the proposals.

An exercise in diplomacy through Gorky Park



On the run: Members of Moscow's diplomatic community pound through Gorky Park after being banned from the city streets by the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

Why Sudan cuts off thieves' hands

From Joseph Albrigh, Khartoum

One year after he imposed a stern Islamic Code on punishments on this 70 per cent Muslim nation, President Gaafar Nimeiry of Sudan says he remains convinced that surgically amputating hands and feet of habitual thieves is a good thing.

The club, formed last Spring, used to run anywhere the route organizer chose, but last week, Western embassies received a letter from the Foreign Ministry saying the joggers impeded traffic. Future runs would be allowed only in parks, athletic fields and stadiums.

Monday's event was the first under the new policy, and the turnout of between 50 and 60 people from 15 Western nations was about average. Curious Moscovites stopped to watch the runners - an odd sight in the city.

social experiments, many local Muslims, especially intellectuals of the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood, say they are convinced God's will is being done.

"Nimeiry made a very historic decision to bring the nation back to its roots," said Mr Ahmed Abdel Rachman, a Muslim Brother and a leading figure in the Sudan Socialist Union, the only legal party in this nation of 22 millions.

But other Sudanese, including liberal Muslims here and a large number of the six million black Christians and spirit worshippers in the semi-autonomous southern provinces, are bitterly resentful and afraid.

"We are going to have a republic of disabled people,"

said a southern Sudanese guerrilla spokesman, Mr Lwal Djingwoll, interviewed earlier this month in Libya, where he serves as a guerrilla liaison agent with Colonel Gaddafi's Government.

Until now, there has been little neutral, first-hand information on Sudan's Islamic judicial system, largely because no Western reporters were allowed to enter Sudan for four months after president Nimeiry declared a state of emergency on April 29, when there had been a wave of strikes, price increases, student protests and guerrilla attacks in the south.

This is to Western sensibilities, a cruel, distasteful story involving double amputations. Islamic punishments imposed on non-Muslims, and emerg-

ency courts that refuse to allow lawyers to cross-examine witnesses, it is also the story of a sudden drop in crime after the imposition of the new punishments.

"Cutting off hands and feet is justifiable, because it has been prescribed by God in the Koran," said Mr Fuad El-Amin, the Cornell University-trained chief judge of Khartoum Emergency Court Two.

A compilation by a Cox Newspapers reporter who was allowed into Sudan in mid-September shows that 42 convicted thieves have had limbs amputated during General Nimeiry's five-month state of emergency, which will continue for at least another month.

- Leading article, page 11

Peking film gives a boost to Hongkong

From David Bonavia, Peking

On the eve of the initialing of the Anglo-Chinese agreement on Hongkong, the Chinese yesterday released a film showing the territory in an unusually good light.

Despite shots of a beggar rummaging in a dustbin and poor fisher folk living on boats, the general image of Hongkong was positive, emphasizing its prosperity, efficiency and bright prospects.

In the past, the Chinese media have often shown Hongkong as a sink of iniquity and exploitation. The film, *One Hundred Days in Hongkong*, is the culmination of a slow trend towards correcting its image in the eyes of Chinese.

The Hongkong agreement will be initiated in the Great Hall of the People by Sir Richard Evans, the British ambassador, and Mr Zhou Nan, a vice-foreign minister.

A British Government White Paper will be published today, giving details of the agreement, under which Britain will renounce all claims to rule or administer Hongkong from 1997, while China will guarantee to leave the territory's economic and legal systems and way of life largely untouched for 50 years thereafter.

The film concentrated on the tremendous energy of the Chinese people of Hongkong, their rapid speed of work, and the advanced business and financial systems.

The final impression was of a dynamic, well-ordered society with a relatively high standard of living, such as can only be an asset to China.

Maltese court defends church property rights

From Austin Sammut, Valletta

The Maltese civil courts, in its constitutional role, has declared two Acts of Parliament null and void because they were in breach of three human rights provisions of the constitution.

The Acts are the "Devolution of Certain Church Property Act" and the "Land Registration Amendment Act", which were aimed at depriving the Catholic Church in Malta of virtually all its immovable property and controlling its possession of movable items.

The former law also restricted legacies left by the faithful for the celebration of Masses for the repose of their souls. Mr Justice Stephen Borg Cardona declared the laws contrary to the provisions of the constitution concerning protection from deprivation of property without compensation, freedom of conscience and worship and protection from discrimination on grounds of creed.

The case was brought by Archbishop of Malta, Mr Joseph Mercieca against the Prime Minister, Mr Dom Mintoff. The government is expected to appeal.

● BOMB FOUNDED: A bomb was found yesterday under Archbishop Mercieca's residence. It was defused by an explosives expert.

● TEACHER'S STRIKE: Eighty per cent of teachers in



Mr Mercieca: Brought constitutional case.

government schools obeyed a union call this week for a two-day strike, the Movement for United Teachers claimed.

The dispute arose after the union directed its members last week to work to rule after the Government failed to satisfy long-standing claims. The Minister of Education, Dr Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici, reacted by asking all teachers to sign a declaration that they would not obey the union directive.

Banker sent back for trial in Italy

From John Earl, Rome

Signor Michele Sindona, the central figure in Italy's biggest banking crash before the collapse of the late Roberto Calvi's Banco Ambrosiano, was extradited from the United States yesterday. The 65-year old Sicilian financier faces charges of fraudulent bankruptcy relating to his bank, the Banca Privata Italiana, and of complicity in the murder by a hired killer of the lawyer put in as its liquidator in 1979.

Signor Sindona is serving a 25-year prison sentence in New York state for offences arising from the simultaneous crash of his American bank, the Franklin National Bank. His temporary extradition was made possible by the entry into force on Mayday of a revived Italo-American extradition treaty. He was flown under guard from New York to Milan.

● FURTHER CHARGES: Signor Sindona will also be charged with fraudulent bankruptcy in connection with Banca Unione, the two banks he merged at the height of his financial power, judicial sources said in Rome. (Reuters reports).

Indian victims

Panama City, (AFP) - About 3,000 Indians have been killed in Peru's Guerrilla war in three years, and Indian tribes are suffering genocide in parts of Brazil, the fourth world Conference of Native Peoples was told here.

Switch in UK view on Uganda

By William Pike

The British Government has modified its attitude to human rights abuses in Uganda by apparently accepting American allegations that more than 100,000 people died in the "Luwero Triangle".

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, said he did not want to play the "numbers game" on killings in Uganda but accepted that "our view of conditions in Uganda does not differ significantly from that of the Americans."

Mr Rifkind was responding to criticism from the Cambridge group of Amnesty International in a letter to the local MP Mr Robert Rhodes James. Amnesty had accused the Foreign Office of being "craven" and "pusy-footing" in its response last month to allegations by Mr Elliott Abrams, US Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights.

MR rifkind blamed a "less than thorough press" for widespread reports that Britain was sceptical of American claims on human rights in Uganda. "This is a considerable modification of what the Foreign Office has previously said in public," Dr Louise Pirouet of Cambridge Amnesty commented. "We hope they will now make a public statement of their agreement with the Americans" because the Uganda Government has been using the British Government's position as a vindication of their human rights record.

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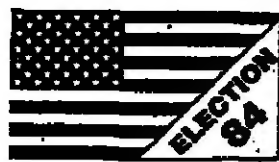
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SPECTRUM



In the final part of our series Trevor Fishlock follows Jesse Jackson's

campaign to rally new voters to his cause

Registering a backlash to Reagan

There's another big race in the 1984 presidential election. Marcia Duffy is one of those who thinks it could hold the key to the Reagan-Mondale fight. She sets up a table in the sunshine on the steps of the handsome state capitol of Columbia, South Carolina, and arranges a stack of voter registration forms.

"Ready for business," she smiles. So is the Rev Jesse Jackson. He strides onto the steps, in his usual smart three-piece, and delivers another of the speeches that have made him the most dramatic of modern American political speakers. The lunchtime crowd of about 700, black and white, is stirred and applauds vigorously. Mr Jackson rounds off by hammering the message he has been hammering for years to America's millions of disfranchised: register and vote. He asks those who are not registered voters to come forward. "Every vote counts. You are somebody. You can choose. Register. Rejoice Ronald Reagan - and send him home on his horse."

At this climax of his speech 80 or 90 people hurry up the steps where Marcia Duffy, a deputy registrar, and her assistants, are waiting. It's not a bad haul. Ethel Lighty, a student aged 20, registers and says: "I was moved by what he said. He's right. We've got to take responsibility for ourselves. Reagan has been bad for blacks, and he's hit my college education, cutting off my grants and forcing me to borrow."

Jean Miller, a grocery store clerk aged 19, says: "Jesse Jackson made me think politics for the first time in my life. He's made me see that I belong to society, and my vote is as good as anyone else's."

Jesse Jackson, the big fisherman of voter registration, heads off on his sweep of the southern states to trawl thousands more. Voter registration is the hard-fought battle on the ground in this election. Both Republicans and Democrats are spending millions of dollars to get more people onto the rolls. Many strategists think, in spite of the way the opinion poll tide is running, that registration could, or will, be the critical factor.

It is also a race against time. Over most of the United States the registration

deadline is around October 6, a month before polling day.

In 1980 just under 27 per cent of the American electorate voted for Ronald Reagan. Just over half of the voters, 52.6 per cent, turned out. Many Americans feel this is a poor showing in a great democracy, but large scale apathy is part of the American political picture. Voter participation has been falling for 20 years. More than 30 million voting-age people are unregistered.

What excites Democrats involved in the registration effort is that, although Mr Reagan's electoral college win was an avalanche, 489-49, his victories in many states were by the skin of his teeth.

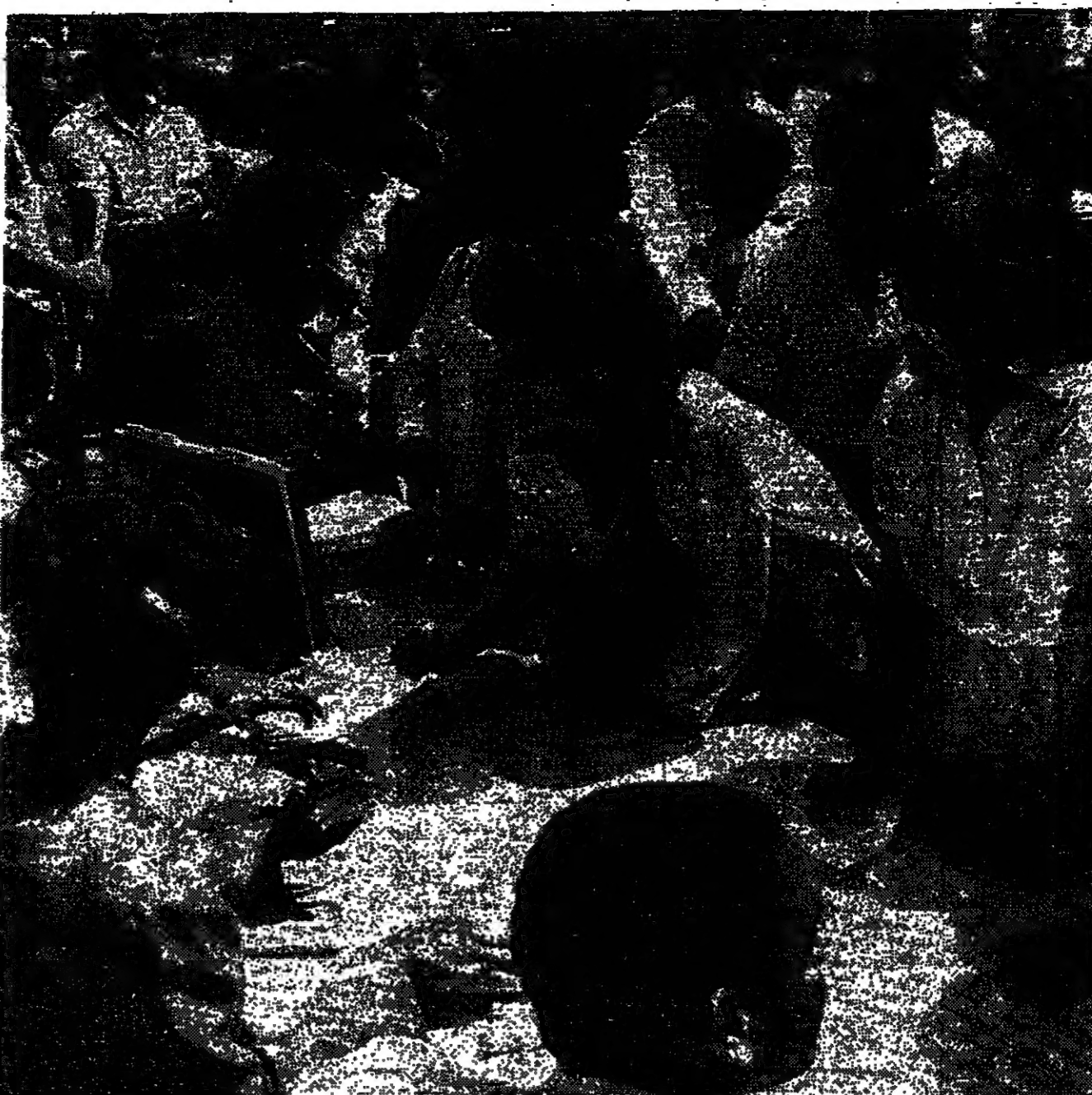
He lost only six of the 50 states, and also the district of Columbia. He won three states: Arkansas, Tennessee and Delaware, by margins of only 5,000 votes, and Massachusetts by 4,000. He took six other states: Kentucky, Mississippi, Alabama, South Carolina, Vermont and Maine, by margins smaller than 20,000 votes.

The numbers-game analysts point out that Mr Reagan's 5,000 vote Arkansas win was achieved while 85,000 blacks were unregistered. He took Mississippi by 11,000 while 130,000 blacks were not on the rolls. In South Carolina, 292,000 blacks were unregistered while Mr Reagan scored an 11,000 majority.

Most blacks vote Democrat. They began to swing away from the Republicans, and anti-slavery party of the mid-19th century, during Roosevelt's new deal which gave them an economic lift. The swing gained impetus in the Nixon years. The Democrats became, increasingly, the repository of black hopes, and most blacks see Mr Reagan as insensitive to them. Indeed, he is a polarizing force. Many blacks have their doubts about the Democrats, but their overriding feeling is the desire to get rid of Ronald Reagan.

A recent survey by the joint centre for political studies, a black research organization, shows that blacks overwhelmingly prefer Mr Mondale to Mr Reagan: 88 per cent to 5 per cent.

The "Jackson effect" is shown to be significant. More than four-fifths of newly-registered blacks questioned in the survey



Every vote counts: Campaign workers handing out registration forms in Columbia, South Carolina

said Mr Jackson's campaign had made them more likely to vote. Younger blacks especially say that Mr Jackson has been a major influence.

There are about 28 million blacks in the United States, just under 12 per cent of the population. About 18.3 millions of them are of voting age and 11 million are registered.

The registration drive battles against apathy, prejudice and a tangle of rules differing from state to state. Only one state, North Dakota, does not require voter registration. Four permit poll-day registration. Twenty allow registration by post - but in many places the system makes registration difficult, especially for blacks.

In many southern counties there is only one registrar office, and people have to travel a long way to reach it, and its opening hours are limited. In some areas people have to register in different places for different elections, and the authorities refuse to appoint the deputy registrars who would make the democratic process more

accessible. There is also intimidation of blacks.

Scores of groups are running registration drives, many aimed at blacks, Hispanics and women. Some set up tables at welfare office waiting rooms, but this practice has been banned by governors, usually Republican, in several states. Voter groups are asking courts to lift the bans.

Plainly, there would have to be a very high turnout of new voters to make the difference the Democrats hope for. Some of them feel that their drive is underfunded, and too little, too late. Meanwhile, the Republicans are running a very successful, better financed, registration drive. While the Democrats claim to have enrolled about three million people, about half of them black, the Republicans have spent \$3 million signing up more than two million new voters. In some places they have counterbalanced black registration. In places they are ahead.

Nearly seven-tenths of new white voters say they will support Mr Reagan - and

while blacks, especially in the south, are registered at a much higher rate than whites, the actual numbers of new white voters outweigh the blacks.

A strong registration drive, benefiting the Republicans, is going on in Fundamental churches. In many places registration forms are available at churches, to be filled in during services.

If Mr Reagan retains the commanding lead he has at present, the surge of new Democratic voters will not harm him, especially as the Republicans are recruiting new recruits. Democrats think, however, that the gap will narrow and the new-voter factor will be vital. They think, too, that a high turnout will help Mr Mondale.

Whatever happens, the enfranchising of so many new people is significant. They are not just fodder. Having been urged into the political process blacks and Hispanics will want something. In the Democratic Party in particular their aspirations and expectations are likely to fuel restlessness and demands for change.

moreover... Miles Kington

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TALKBACK: ON REDESIGNING THE SOUTH BANK

From George Nicholson, Planning Committee chairman, Greater London Council, member for Southwark, Bermondsey

Three years ago at the start of the second Coin Street Inquiry *The Times* carried a story (and my photo), where I was reported as saying that: "the architectural profession had destroyed communities up and down the country". I never thought that that same profession would respond with such spectacular arrogance.

Quite apart from the fact that I have been converted from an inner city resident to a beach dweller, along with most of my constituents, this latest outbreak of fantasy (The beach garden capital, *Spectrum* September 11) is extraordinary for its lack of understanding of the capital and in particular the South Bank.

Firstly, the notion that the North Bank is a model cannot be seriously argued. Compared to other capital cities the scale of destruction there compares with the South Bank. Look at the stretch of riverside between Blackfriars and Southwark Bridges.

The foreground between St Paul's and the river is a depressing collection of the most drab modern buildings to grace any capital and a quite appalling indictment of the City corporation who have systematically destroyed one of the finest views in the world. The Fulham and Tower Hamlets riverside are equal partners to their South Bank neighbours too.

Where I would agree with you is that the whole centre of our City does need single minded vision. The problems however stem from too little planning, not too much.

Most boroughs have regarded the riverside as their back door, and most developers a prime piece of real estate. This contradiction has led to the tensions and disasters of recent years.

You are absolutely right therefore to spotlight the triple role of the South Bank: local, metropolitan and national as the most important issue to be recognized. It is precisely because it hasn't that we find ourselves in the current impasse.

This is why the recent decisions over the development of Coin Street is so significant because it is unique as an example of a desire to combine all three, rather than just one or at best two of your ingredients. The problem is neither the market nor the Secretary of State agree with you, and between them they have set about systematically eroding the carefully constituted ground rules that the Town and Country Planning system has been based on for the past 30 years.

At the GLC we believe there needs to be more consensus than at present, and better decision making, which is why we have been working with all sides of the development industry for the last three years to establish a proper information base that all can agree on. Astonishingly this has never been done and no city can survive without it. To make any progress from here however we need resources, a strategic authority and an up to date strategic plan. This government is determined to deny us all three.

The plans and aspirations of those of us who both live and work here and also represent Londoners will gain ground if only because we



Flooding the South Bank - a detail from the proposal

are prepared to fight for as long as it takes to win.

For the mean time we will be declaring a Patrick Jenkin/Architect Free Zone on the South Bank.

From: Louanne Tranchell, Secretary, Campaign for Homes in Central London

The Times is a national newspaper, read around the world, so it is valued when it discusses the problems of Central London. Ordinary Londoners have problems. They are about finding a home, the lack of investment in jobs, the NHS and the infrastructure, and the threat of £100m cuts in education. No need to waste

space on "top architects" and ugliness, but you could reprint the Prince of Wales RIBA speech.

Any site by the river is "desirable", say drooled over by speculative developers. (Charles Kuevint listed 52 between Battersea and Bermondsey). They see the riverside and mainland stations as their principal battling-ground, but only for developments which maximise land-values. (Offices or blight?) Architects, since the Festival of Britain, tend to see it all as a big playground.

People LIVE here and they are not unaware of the rumblings and threat of hegemony from the city, and Bright Ideas of Professionals.

There is not much that is "shrill" about the defence that they put up. It has the ring of authority of those who have been born and bred, given and taken in these neighbourhoods.

They take part in lengthy battles because they do not want to lose affordable housing, shops, chemist, post-office, schools or jobs. Developers budget for the contest; they lobby, recruit extensive communications skills, and give local authorities, planners and members, "no alternative".

The Campaign for Homes in Central London is a federation of local groups who are more than concerned that the effect has been a one-third loss of population from 1971 to 1981. Central London communities could go the same way as the City, "dead" after 7pm and at weekends.

Docklands, Rotherhithe, north Southwark, Waterloo, Vauxhall and Battersea all belong to our campaign along with groups from north of the river. They have all been trying to do something about their areas in the only way that is effective - local planning for need.

From: Miss Joanna Clark, 2 Trinity Church Square, London

Noting the appearing of Trinity Island in Peter Cook's London Lagoon I suppose we tenants of the Trinity Newington Trust Estate should be grateful for some mercies.

It seems Mr Cook would merely maroon us when he floods thousands of our neighbours from their homes. I will admit that I have sometimes dreamed of retiring to some quiet island free from the noise and stench of motor-traffic,

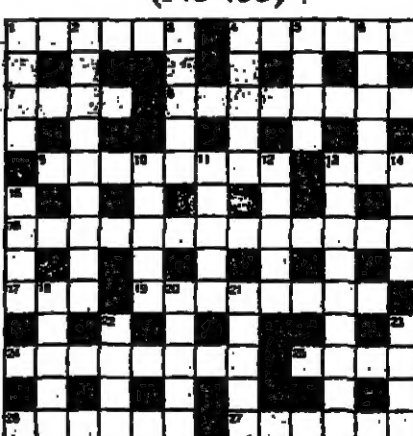
but I had in mind something more like Sark and less like a Georgian mausoleum stranded in a municipal boating-pond. Until I do retire, I shall continue to find it convenient to walk to my work in the City on fine days and take the bus when it's wet.

I also find it convenient to use all the neighbourhood stores and services Mr Cook apparently believes we can do without. The reason those stores continue to exist, despite the depredations of the speculative office-builders, is because the district still has a sufficiently large residential as well as working population to make them viable.

Drown our neighbours and we shall be as bleakly isolated as any lighthouse. Doubtless our landlords can provide some advice on how to cope with that; Trinity House have some little experience in such matters. But the factors that make this a pleasant place to live will have disappeared beneath the waters of the lagoon and its beaches.

More important than buildings are the people who inhabit them, and what Mr Cook dismisses as "the dreary bit" is known to many of us as "home". Most of them, of course, are council tenants; and council tenants are the pawns of the planning game. Where will Mr Cook shift the pawns? Into the "sensible rack system housing", perhaps; and will there be room enough on the racks for the homeless ones whose doss-houses and traditional camping-sites he would flood? Will the lagoon-views be sold like river-views are sold, to those who can afford six-figure sums for studios in converted dockland warehouses?

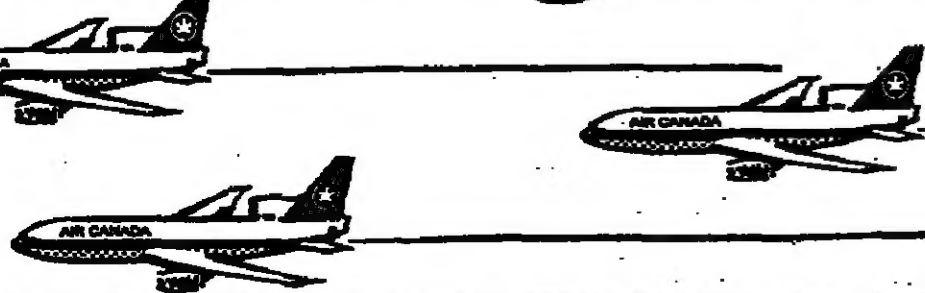
CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 455)



- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Very busy (6) | 1 Dwelling (4) |
| 2 Gloomy (6) | 2 Scroll tablet (9) |
| 3 Spot (4) | 3 Hindu class (5) |
| 4 Quite large (8) | 4 Modernism (5) |
| 5 Showy trifle (8) | 5 Track (4) |
| 6 Senior warrant officer (11,11) | 6 By oneself (5) |
| 7 Career spinners (8,5) | 7 Horror (5) |
| 8 Speak without (3) | 8 Tuna (5) |
| 9 Deserted (8) | 9 Muddle (4) |
| 10 Battering (8) | 10 Cain's brother (4) |
| 11 Break suddenly (4) | 11 Trojan siege poem (5) |
| 12 Think highly of (6) | 12 Church instrument (5) |
| 13 Solicitor (6) | 12 Of Thailand (4) |
| | 13 Nestle Estate (4) |

SOLUTION TO No 454
ACROSS: 1 Push-up 5 Bore 8 Uter 9 Lining 11 Bold face 13 Solo 15 Jurisprudence 17 Musk 18 Eminence 21 Outcast 22 Widet 23 Loop 24 Quare
DOWN: 2 Until 3 Her 4 Polychromatic 5 Bays 6 Trifona 7 Mumbo jumbo 10 Gooseberry 12 Fast 14 Eden 16 Risotto 19 Nadir 20 Vamp 22 War

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AIR CANADA Intercontinental

WEDNESDAY PAGE

Irene's best lines are her own

Irene Handl, actress, comedienne and author, published her first novel at the age of 62. Now a spry 82, she talks to Peter Lennon

Miss Irene Handl clearly lives with exceptional resources of imagination. It was not until she was nearly 40 that she finally got the opportunity of going on the stage and overnight usurped the title of Britain's favourite Cockney char or mum.

But there is nothing Cockney about her background. Indeed she does not have a drop of English blood; her father was a Viennese doctor and her mother French. Her original characterizations were based on observation of the servants in the London home of her youth.

But it was at the age of 62 that she accomplished her most startling transfiguration, by producing a first novel, *The Sioux*, which owed nothing to her 20 years' theatre experience. It was acclaimed by fellow novelists Doris Lessing and Margaret Drabble as a work of high originality and the critics did not have to lower their sights to accord it high praise.

This book will be republished tomorrow, here and in America. *The Gold Tip Pfitzer*, written seven years later, will also be republished.

Miss Handl - she never married - is now a spry 82. Refusing to be hampered by a leg ulcer, the result of having been kicked by Cinderella's coach pony in Paris last Christmas, she prepared a formal display of fresh cucumber sandwiches, tea, and home-made fruit cake for the interview in her Notting Hill apartment.

Her manner was attentive and accommodating, confiding one moment and then watchful, wondering perhaps if she had given too much away, although reticence is not her favourite weapon.

Occasionally there were whip-like glimpses of Peter Sellers' rebellious mum in *I'm All Right Jack*, or Morgan's incandescent Marxist mother in *Morgan, A Suitable Case for Treatment*, but by and large this mercurial personality has the

appearance of a very middle-class lady with the softness of those who have refused to entirely relinquish their childhood.

She began writing *The Sioux* when playing in a comedy, *Goodnight Mrs Puffin*. "It was a long run," she said, "and when I saw it stretching out before me I saw there was a danger of going stale, which I loathe. I remembered I had a couple of pages written from when I was in Paris as a young woman in the 1920s. I thought I would build on this novel which would be so different from what I was acting; both would spark each other off. And this actually happened."

What she produced was a 344-page narrative sustained almost entirely by dialogue - a considerable technical feat - describing a preposterously wealthy, casually perverse French family and their preoccupation with a child dying of leukaemia.

The aristocratic clan call themselves the Sioux because of their tribal wars. Their behaviour can be excessive. At one point as punishment for inelegant behaviour the adored child has his hands beaten to a bloody pulp by his capricious mother wielding an ancient, miniature slave whip. She conveys these incidents obliquely, observing a cool distance, appearing to observe her characters' behaviour with equanimity.

In the sequel to *The Sioux*, *The Gold Tip Pfitzer*, which revolves around the death of the child, Miss Handl embarked with equal assurance on interior monologue (an effete young man about to blow his brains out to spite his father) and on a surrealistic dream sequence: "They pass Revenants in their hobble skirts, and square ghosts like hat boxes, rollicking three and four abreast. Last of all come the dark round bodies of flaming ghosts. Some are already roasted brown; others still flaming, like gyrating

more cerebral and haven't got such warm hearts as actors - who after poisoning you are sorry for you."

She gave a mischievous laugh. She is very fond of books that are portraits of characters and like Dickens and... she paused, frowned and said: "What's his name - with the seagulls?"

Chekov? "No, no, no. Roy Plomley, *Desert Island Discs*. What books apart from the Bible and Shakespeare," he said and I said "Can't I trade them in for some other books? I don't like either."



Irene Handl: "A middle-class lady with the softness of those who have refused to entirely relinquish their childhood"

Christmas puddings. These last are setting fire to everything they pass.

Did this literary preoccupation come from association with literary friends?

"I don't know any writers," she replied. "I understand the timber grows very high in the literary world. The timber? 'Jungle warfare. I used to be terrified of what went on in the theatre, but the literary world is still worse because they are

'I did not write the book from A to B. I wrote when the passion took me'

So her books are a recreation of a cherished world of her own past. If you probe too persistently her expression becomes wary, like that of a child afraid you are about to discover and deprive her of something.

"A lot of it is real," she said guardedly. "A lot of it is fiction and a lot of it is me. I did not write the book from A to B. I wrote when the passion took me and when the heat went out of it I left it and went back when I felt like it. It took two years to write the first one. I never rewrote. I used to dream a lot of it at night. When I brought it to the publishers I thought they would ask me to rewrite, but they didn't touch anything although I was devoted to semicolons at the time."

She had a liaison with a young French aristocrat back in the 1920s, but never met the family. She never knew a young child who died. The child is the catalyst of the books. "He is one of those things that you very rarely meet: a person who is really innocent in the true sense. At first he is like water in anybody's hands but illness makes him grow up quicker."

Something Miss Handl said earlier suggested that what she was describing were the depredations time had inflicted on her own youth and obstinately preserved innocence.

"I had a lovely girlhood," she had said. "Men would stop me and kiss me on the street - I loved it. I still get kissed everyday by the milkman or dustman or postman. I had a wonderful life really. You see I didn't do any of the things which wouldn't really have been good for me. Like marriage. In a way I was very lucky I met the right men who gave me a very happy and very good emotional education. Very loving and passionate."

All the characters in the novel are clearly defined, and described with a surprising coolness. How did she manage this difficult exercise without previous experience?

"I don't know," she said. "They just were with me, that's all. They are still with me. My voice went low and she looked vulnerable and near tears, touched by the intimacy of her imaginative world."

She suddenly exclaimed: "I think a lot of those books. I do! I do! I don't care if it sounds terribly concentrated. I really would defend them, which I wouldn't do a performance, although I mind very much about performances."

As an actress she likes to be able to make people laugh. When I was describing what she realizes is often "on the knife edge of hysteria". A depressive herself she refuses to take pills and doesn't bore people with it.

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ALAN FRANKS' DIARY

Caveman goes back to school

Back to school. This runs the cliché, is where the parents' holiday begins, and there is a world of truth in it. The mothers in the playground this morning look visibly withered by the weeks of full-time minding which they have just endured. Poor Mrs Prewitt, Morgan's mother, does actually seem to have shrunk, while the toothsome child has had yet another growth spurt. The usual gambit for this phenomenon of holiday growth is something like "My, but he's fairly shot up!" No one is saying this to Mrs Prewitt, however, since there is no "up" about it. All the new bodily matter has clamped itself on to Morgan's girth; obviously he has been supplied with a stream of confectionary as a bribe against those incredible temper tantrums (or Morgasms as they are known locally). You can't very well say to a mother "My, but he's fairly shot up," but that is exactly what was happened. Nor for that matter can you say to her: "And you're really shot down." As a result all the other parents and children are giving the pair a wide berth and regretting/rejoicing that they have to do not have share a classroom with the child.

Here is the usual quota of fathers, nodding at each other with that solidarity that is at once cowed yet smug, and inwardly champing for the liberation of the train and the office. The tiny freshmen, who until two months ago were swimming, all senior and secure, in the womb of the nursery school, are now embarked on life's next episode. It can reduce once swaggering toddlers to blubbing wrecks. The bell clangs and the lines form; the tragic moans rise several semitones and the clinging becomes more frantic. The fathers are physically plucking off the desperate little fists which are locked to the freshly ironed business shirt; they are brushing their children from them like burrs and despatching them to the strange kingdom of the tweeded Miss Mansbridge and her chalky smile. Unless the morning school run becomes less of blind, many of these fathers will discover in themselves, as term progresses, a strange need to be at their desks half an hour earlier.

In my last entry I wrote of my suspicion that my horrible lawyer friend Parris Maitland had sneaked a peep at the diary during my absence. I do know that he was round here "offering" his "expertise" on the building work that is going on. That much I have from my wife. Apparently his advice was technical to the point of impenetrability; it seems to have

had nothing at all to do with construction and everything to do with litigation. Anyway, I bumped into him this morning on my way to school (he wouldn't be seen dead doing the school run and always gives me a wandering sneer when he catches me at it, as if to say "If I don't you get yourself an au pair"). On this occasion, the expression had a particularly sinister shaft about it. Then he said "Fascinating books in your house. Absolutely fascinating", and walked on. I think I must assume the worst.

The building work, that's another story. I shall gloss over it and say only that there is now not a surface, not a suet, not a bad, not a beaker, not a biscuit which is not covered with a fine film of brick dust. There is no point in dwelling on building-related yarns since (a) you usually have no one to blame but yourself, and (b) everyone else will trump you with their own catalogue of horrors. I suppose one should look for consolations; the whole operation is a great fantasy fulfillment for my elder son, now four - he has always wanted to become a caveman, but never knew how to go about it.

Two days in the countryside, away from the brickdust. Alien locations always seem to quicken the historical acumen of the young. I learn that it was in these parts that Robin Hood settled the differences between King Arthur and the Sheriff of Nottingham. Hood's tactic was to dress up in Blinkin' Green, which had the effect of blinding all the Baddies. He was assisted by a hotel domestic called Maid Marian, a beanstalk farmer, Little John and Little Lor' Jezeer - a character whom we have met before. He was over from Italy but couldn't resist a challenge. His father, who lived in the sky, could see everything that was going on so the battle was very one-sided, but because there was no room in the inn, Jezeer went back up to Richmond the same night.

TOMORROW



Brigitte Bardot at 50

TALKBACK

From: C. P. Hanson-Abbott, managing director YEC Audible Warning Systems, Brigade Street, London.

Mr Brown's somewhat tongue-in-cheek protest (First Person, August 31) at having his late-morning sleep disturbed by the Camden Corporation dartscore reversing sleepers has fired me to reply. I am the originator of this "tiny but proliferating monster of modern technology", and I am unrepentant.

Let me first set his mind (and his sleep) at rest. I have supplied Camden with a timed cut-out switch to silence the sleepers during nocturnal hours - which they are evaluating. I suspect that Mr Brown is not a commercial vehicle driver. He will be unfamiliar therefore with that pit-in-the-stomach sensation every time the driver reverses, blinding, dreading the awful day when his (and somebody else's) luck runs out. Unable to warn the unseen, the unwary and the unknowing man, woman or child behind his vehicle, the driver is forced nearly always to take a colossal and irresponsible gamble. As for himself, safe and sound in his cab, it's not his life that's at stake.

Loneliness is just one problem

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Recipes that tempted the palate of Pepys

GUEST COOK

Christopher Driver, writer, broadcaster, and for 12 years editor of *The Good Food Guide*, is the fourth in our series of guest cookery columnists. His latest book, *Pepys At Table*, written in conjunction with Michelle Barredale-Johnson, is being published on Friday by Bell & Hyman, price £4.95.

Of all men who have held high office in the state, none have taken a closer interest in the procurement, cooking, and serving of daily meals than the Secretary of the Navy, Samuel Pepys.

But as a husband, in the matter of food, Pepys must have been at once supportive and, and problematic. He clearly went out of his way to pass by London's food markets and to pick up for supper a rabbit from Leadenhall or a lobster from New Fish Street. In his pages you also sometimes hear the couple shopping for food together and approving each other's bargains.

The Stuart gentry and merchant classes ate so much meat, freshly killed, rather tough, and plainly cooked, that more quantity was scarcely an occasion for social boasting. Pepys was much more concerned to congratulate himself on reaching the station in life where he could dine off chicken ficassees, or afford "a man cook" to prepare an important dinner party with the dishes arriving in sequence, "in the French manner".

This premium set upon skill, led to Britain's first cookery book boom, with plenty of French authors in translation.



Christopher Driver

But their English counterparts were themselves capable of lightness and delicacy. The "fanzie" included in Pepys's 1662 dinner celebrating the anniversary of his successful gallstone operation could easily have come from William Rabisha's *The Whole Duty of Cookery Dissected*, published the previous year.

"Take a pint of Cream, a handful of grated bread, fourteen eggs, cast away the whites of six, season it with a grated Nutmeg, and sugar, and green it with the juice of Spinage; so bring it into a body, in a skillet, and fry it."

This will be a very tender Tanzie; but if you intend to cut it according to the vulgar way, you must add the other whites of eggs, else diminish in your Cream; dish it up, scruse (sic) on the juice of a Lemon, and garnish it with quartered Oranges, then scruse on Sugar. After this way and manner aforesaid, have I made Tanzies of Walnut-tree buds in

Lent, and of Pine-apples and Pistaches, at other seasons."

A Tazie of Spinnage
Serves six
340g (12 oz) fresh spinach
chopped small
150 ml (1/4 pint) water
55g (2 oz) butter
6 egg yolks plus 6 whole eggs
75g (3 oz) brown breadcrumbs
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
sea salt and black pepper
450 ml (15 fl oz) whipping cream
25g (1 oz) butter

Cook the spinach gently in the water for 15 mins. Drain off any water that is left, add the butter and continue to cook for a further 15 minutes.

Whisk together the eggs, egg yolk, breadcrumbs, seasonings and cream. Add the spinach. Heat the remaining butter till sizzling in a large, wide pan, pour in the mixture and cook as for an omelette for 2 minutes. Then put the pan under a very hot grill to brown and cook the top. Alternatively, cook six individual omelettes. Serve immediately.

More briefly, here are two recipes, adapted from Sir Kenelm Digby and John Nott respectively, that could easily be enjoyed together. The first is a spudab which uses not wine but the intensely flavoured juice from stewing tart soft fruit:

A Sullabub
150 ml (1/4 pint) well-flavoured juice from stewing plums, rhubarb, blackberries, blackcurrants, or cherries

150ml (1/4 pint) double or whipping cream

When you stew the fruit ensure that the juice is strong and not too sweet. Each fruit will require a different amount of sweetening but as a general rule 1 tablespoon (15ml) sugar or honey, the juice of 1 lemon, 2 tablespoons (30ml) of water and about 900 g (2 lbs) of fruit will give about 300 ml (1/2 pint) of well flavoured juice. If it is too tart add a little more sugar when it is cooked. Cool the juice. Put the juice in a tall jug and pour in the cream. With a birch or balloon whisk, whip the mixture till it is very frothy and slightly thickened. Pour into glasses and drink.

(Adapted from *The Closet of the Eminent learned Sir Kenelm Digby, Kt.*, opened, 1669)

Nun's Baskets
Makes about 24
3 eggs separated
100g (4 oz) ground almonds
180g (6 oz) sugar
100g (4 oz) white or wholemeal flour
Grated peel of 2 lemons

Whisk the egg whites till holding their shape then beat in the ground almonds. Whisk the egg yolks with the sugar till pale and ribbony, then mix the two mixtures together. Add the flour and the lemon rind and mix all well. Spoon the mixture on to a well-greased baking tin, a large teaspoonful should be enough for each biscuit. Sprinkle the biscuits with sugar and bake them in a moderate oven (160°C/325°F, gas mark 3) for

40 minutes. Remove from the tin and cool on a rack.

(Adapted from John Nott, *The Cook's and Confectioner's Dictionary*, 1723, a retrospective compilation which took recipes from "the most celebrated Artists; and also the nicest and most curious Dames and Housewives our Country has produced")

The sole author of *Chinese Masterclass Cookery* is Willy Mark (Wednesday Page, September 12).



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THE TIMES DIARY

Shepherd's minefield

An uneasy clash between NUM and NCB officials is in danger of erupting in the aisles of a village church on Friday night when the Bishop of Durham is due to deliver his first sermon since his controversial enthronement. The service at South Heaton in County Durham - where a pit was closed only last year - will mark the 140th anniversary of a local pit disaster. The Rev Bill Rumble, who invited the bishop to take the service at Holy Trinity church months ago, expects about 200 local miners to attend, as well as NUM and NCB representatives. Rumble had not been informed yesterday of the contents of the bishop's address, but thought he might "ironically" take up the theme of last week's enthronement - of "looking to the future". "We cannot reach a reconciliation unless the two main adversaries change their position," said Rumble. "I go along with the archbishops of Canterbury and York in their qualified support of the Bishop of Durham." Yesterday Durham police said they would maintain a presence, "but no more than normal at this stage".

Tamed

To his employees' surprise, the redesigned logo on the Mirror Group Newspapers' letter heading does not bear the much exposed face of Robert Maxwell, but of a not dissimilar looking creature. Yesterday a Mirror official confirmed the new logo, but added hastily: "Nothing is for attribution." Any resemblance to MGM's lion is entirely coincidental.

Underlined

"Wise be the people that within three dwell," wrote William Dunbar in his 1501 poem about London. I am reminded of this generous tribute so soon after Labour's victories in four GLC by-elections by *London Lines*, an anthology just published in paperback by Methuen. Its compiler, Kenneth Baker, newly appointed minister of local government and thus GLC executor.

BARRY FANTONI



Paper chase

Listen to David Owen holding forth on new technology and the chances are you will receive the wisdom of SDP scientist John Ashworth, vice-chancellor of Salford University: indeed a chapter of Owen's *A Future That Will Work* owes much to Ashworth's briefings to his leader. But Ashworth, a former government Think Tank member, admits the vagaries of politics can still bewilder him. In June, for example, Norman Tebbit, Trade Secretary, lambasted Labour's Peter Shore for "flat-footed partisan blundering" that could threaten the future of Innos, the state-backed microchip company. Shore's comments, in a Commons debate, were clearly based on a paper Ashworth had delivered to the industry talking shop, Noddy. What puzzles him is that the decision to make public the paper came from none other than the chairman of the meeting, Nigel Lawson. "So the first paper of mine ever to be 'leaked' was leaked with the permission of the Chancellor of the Exchequer," says Ashworth.

Figured out

Martin "Smart Alec" Amis has goofed. In his brilliant new novel *Money*, which is out tomorrow, he entrants readers who want to discover the identity of a character's murderer to ring "Beryl Goodney" on a Philadelphia number. So I did. "Beryl who?" said the subscriber. "You've got the wrong number." Nor had he heard of Amis. Her name was Mary. Yesterday a disgraced Amis explained all he simply added a digit to his own London number, and didn't think anyone would be so daft as me to try it. Meanwhile Mary's going onto (Amis's word, not mine).

Nothing ventured

Novelists are sensitive creatures. In my report on *Books and Bookmen's* assessment of the value of great authors' first works, I quoted the value Oxford bookseller James Fergusson puts on Gore Vidal's *Williwaw* - absolutely nothing. Vidal was hurt to the quick, and has instructed his lawyer Peter Carter-Ruck to point out that in America the book is worth between 125 and 150 dollars.

PHS

Lawson, cuckoo in the nest-egg

by Jamie Stevenson

The Prime Minister has recently been pondering over a Treasury request for an immediate freeze on local authorities which wish to commit money for new homes, schools and other major works. The Chancellor is anxious to hold back a rising tide of local authority capital investment which has breached his spending "cash limits". He argues that this breach of the cash limits will, if unchecked, cause public borrowing to overshoot its targets this year, in turn driving up interest rates and inflation.

The Environment Secretary, Patrick Jenkin, has been resisting this Treasury pressure. Whatever理由 he may make in public, he knows that such a freeze would be economic madness. It could cost the nation up to £1,500m of new assets, and as many as 150,000 jobs in the construction and related industries.

Furthermore, he knows that it would make embarrassing nonsense both of council house sales and of the Prime Minister's own pronouncements about investment. The council house sales policy holds the key to the whole argument. For local authorities have been far more successful than they and even the Government expected both in selling houses and in collecting early cash payment for them. Fewer of these sales have been made with

local authority mortgages than originally forecast, and private cash - from individuals and from building societies - has swelled local authority coffers over the past four years.

It is this cash which the authorities are now using to boost their expenditure on constructing and renovating housing, schools and other buildings. Their total capital expenditure in England alone jumped from around £4,000m in 1981-2 to around £5,500m last year and will rise to a projected £6,000m or more this year.

In the early years of council house sales - 1981 and 1982 - most authorities used the proceeds sparingly and accumulated a nest-egg of unspent capital. Now they are drawing upon that nest-egg, and the Chancellor objects.

When he set out his Budget plans last March, he took into account only the basic investment allocations that the Government had made for authorities in the financial year 1984-85 and the council house sale proceeds that they were likely to generate during this year. The Treasury "cash limit" system takes no account of the nest-egg proceeds from previous financial years. The breach must be mended, says Mr

Lawson. The local authorities' case is equally sound. Their capital has been accumulated from a vigorous pursuit of Government policy, and they are entitled to spend it on replacing some of their assets. Is it their fault that the Treasury cannot get its "cash limit" sums right?

The Prime Minister's potential embarrassment is caused by this mockery of her council house sales policy and also by the complex double U-turn into which the Treasury request would force her. First she attacked local authority profligacy and then, to prime the economic pump during the run-up to the 1983 election, complained that councils were failing to spend all their capital resources.

For the Government to turn round yet again, and prevent local authorities from spending those reserves of capital which they were so strongly urged to "spend, spend, spend" just a couple of years back, would be a bitter irony. If Mrs Thatcher accedes to the request between now and the Tory party conference, it will open up again the whole question of whether this government has any consistency of management and purpose in its policy towards local authorities and new investment.

The author is economics director of the Building Employers' Confederation.

George Walden finds a cross-channel answer to Britain's educational decline

A French lesson we cannot ignore

The new French education minister, Jean-Pierre Chevènement, is not what we would call a "nice" man. He is young, tough, sardonic, and highly intelligent, as I discovered in the amiable arguments we had when he was in opposition. He is also the leader of the left wing of the French Socialist Party. Yet he makes speeches which would scandalize Labour, traumatize the British educational establishment, and be thought invidious by Conservative ministers. His remarks symbolize a new mood about education in France, but there is a message here too for everyone from the NUT to David Young. Mrs Thatcher's new minister responsible for training and education.

Mr Chevènement believes in "effort" by pupils, respect for teachers, "republican elitism", "national values", and more school discipline. Some of his views have an inspired simplicity: "There are people who are at school because they have knowledge. Those are the teachers. The rest are there to learn." These are not the paradoxical lucubrations of a left-wing nationalist, but reflect a new pattern of concern about French educational standards which transcends the right-left divide and ranges from the president to the man on the metro.

The unprecedented demonstrations during the summer over the proposed reorganization of private schooling were as much a protest against the threat to educational quality as an assertion of individual and religious freedom. Even before this host of new books were appearing with titles like *Do you really want your child to be an idiot?* Earlier, President Mitterrand himself had publicly lamented the decline in French history teaching and the risk of a "collective loss of memory".

This upsurge of anxiety has many causes. But chief among them is the sudden realization that one of France's most cherished national assets - its tradition of educational excellence - was being eroded by time, fashion, and political expediency.

Close comparison with our own experience should be resisted. Each country has different social and political cultures and styles. But there is an underlying parallel. The French were late in the field with educational experimentation, and despite a nasty rash, showed a healthy resistance to the epidemic. Now they are rapidly returning to their own best traditions.

We should do the same. But it is a much slower business here. When education goes into reverse in a



On the march, against falling standards as well as state control. Top, Jean-Pierre Chevènement, French socialist apostle of traditional values. Above, Sir Keith Joseph, on the right lines but far to go to overcome entrenched thinking

centralized country, the government can pull levers to get it back on course. What do you do when things fall apart? The centre has no power to hold them. Britain has another disability. Someone in the debate here never really gets off the ground: it is stifled by complacency, escapism and the empty obscurities of educationalism.

It is impossible to get straight answers to simple questions. Why do British children not do more homework? It involves parents, self-discipline, and gets eyes off TV and heads into books. Patient, indulgent smiles; but no answers. Meanwhile, we pursue our fetishes about private versus public education, grammar schools versus comprehensive, and technical versus academic, when what is needed is a massive increase in quality all round: elitism for everybody.

In France, people of all political views sense when things are slipping, and say so. In Britain, there

is still a genteel evasiveness. Ministers pretend that inadequate teachers are a "small minority", whereas everyone, and especially parents, knows that the problem is far wider. Her Majesty's Inspectors balance every discreet criticism of standards with some exculpatory reference to "resources": no value judgments, no one to blame.

The unions insist that they know best, and that parents and the state should not interfere: their job is to cough up £14bn a year, and ask no questions. The Labour Party continues its establishment tradition of intellectual betrayal set by people like Michael Foot - a man of letters who connived in the attempted devaluation of Britain in the 1960s and '70s. Others trundled their burden of class guilt from Labour to the SDP.

While the French talk about quality, we quibble about cash. At a time when the Government is spending more per child than ever

before, the preface gains ground that the real problem is one of "educational resources". Obviously money matters. But the central challenge is that of low expectations.

What are the implications? It is not just France we are up against. In Hongkong, Chinese studs study horribly complex characters under the parents' market stall; in Britain armies of educationists invent excuses for the difficulty of learning the ABC. When it comes to keeping their country literate and powerful, the Russians have no qualms about ditching egalitarianism to ruthlessly select the best minds and put them to work.

Unlike M. Chevènement, Sir Keith Joseph has little control over what goes on in the classroom. His long-term strategy to raise standards is under-rated, but it is depressingly long-term. There is one crucial area where more energetic action is now possible. Teachers need more money and more respect, and parents need more professionalism and higher standards. Surely there is the basis of a deal here?

Current negotiations on restructuring teachers' salaries offer a golden opportunity. Sir Keith should offer more insistently, and far more publicly, really generous incentives to good teachers - and there are excellent teachers - in exchange for a tough package aimed at raising overall standards, including rigorous annual assessment: more pay for better teachers, and more dismissals of bad ones.

If he needs Cabinet allies to get the money, who better than his new colleague, David Young? All the employment schemes in the world won't help if you don't get the basics right. The purpose of the Youth Training Scheme (YTS) should not be to teach people to read, write and count, but sometimes it has to do so. Young should note that Chevènement was also a former minister of industry.

This year is the bicentenary of a highly educated Englishman. Dr Johnson really was a "disadvantaged" child, and one of his earliest schools was a little short of "resources": too: the only chair for the master - the children sat on the floor. But Johnson's parents taught him to read at three, and he had sound school teachers. He was not always keen on foreigners, and was a terrible Tory. But he and Chevènement would share one thing in common: a respect for education.

© Times Newspapers Limited, 1984
The author, Conservative MP for Buckingham, is a member of the Commons Select Committee on Education, Science and the Arts.

Are you lying comfortably? Then off we go



Chain reaction: the winner (left) and also-pedalled in the Open Road contest at Thamesmead

I have seen the future, and not only does it work, but it went round in circles in Thamesmead.

This morning the future edges a little nearer with the start of a three-day conference on "Velo City", held at London's County Hall. "Cycle parking racks" are firmly labelled in the map given out in advance, but no details on where to dump your gas-guzzler.

"Can drivers learn to be more considerate to cyclists?" is one of the topics under discussion, in what is thought to be the most vital conference of the decade on making towns "bicycle-friendly". A difficult question. An even more difficult one is the feasibility of the "cycle route in the sky", an elevated bikeway proposed by Ryan Snyder of the West Los Angeles Veloway Project. Such a scheme would run for up to eight and a half miles above death-traps such as the Santa Monica Boulevard and cost, in its most spectacular version, £23m.

What the conference will have no time to consider is the actual design

of the machines that would be pedalled, in the 1990s and after, over that flyover or along the one-way system in Peckham.

To see a glimpse of the bike of the future, one had to attend the Festival of Human Power held at Thamesmead, near London, this summer. Here a variety of pedalled contraptions went through their paces over a circuit of closed-off dual carriageways and canals.

The superbike of the year 2000 will not look like a bicycle, to judge by some of the entries. As a cyclist approaches 20mph, most energy goes in overcoming wind resistance, in a vacuum he or she would be breaking motorway speed limits. Today the water-bottles on racing bikes are tested in a wind tunnel, and legs are shaved; tomorrow, streamlining will be de rigueur. Long, pointed snouts will be edging into the veloways, with fairings concealing riders from wind, rain and indeed the sight of casual observers, who will mistake them

for a ton-up lizard from Outer Space.

The Easy Rider of the future will have his feet up to reduce wind resistance further. Lying on his back inches above the ground, he will need some way of drawing himself to the attention of such motor vehicles as survive the drastic petrol shortage. We can therefore expect to see a row of little flags on tiny masts, racing along with no visible means of propulsion.

The Very Easy Rider of 2001 will not do all the pedalling. He or she will have a motor powered by rechargeable batteries to take the strain out of hills, and will, like some festival entrants, break down from time to time, until rescued by a cyclist's version of the RAC. Alternatively they will have a friend to put the best leg forward on the rear seat of a totally enclosed, feet-in tandem. For more leisurely trips with a special friend, there already exists the "side-by-side" bike with parallel saddles and two

sets of handlebars, only one of which actually steers.

The superbike's tires will not need a pump but a puff of helium gas to inflate them, to judge from the American machine used in the Olympics. Rain will be pushed away from the "cabin" of superbikes built on the lines of a Belgian model by tiny windscreen-wipers, also powered by the human knee; this design runs to indicators that make a stuck-out human hand quite obsolete.

The technology has some way to go before it is finely tuned and mass-produced: some of the Thamesmead machines used cannibalized pram-wheels. But this is the acceptable face of technology. After the roar of traffic and the petro-chemical fumes, no one is going to complain about the deafening drum of helium-filled wheels, or take offence at a little puffing and panting - above LA or anywhere else.

Jonathan Sale

Robin Cook

If winter's here, why bother

There is a marked dissonance in being invited within the controlled and civilized environment of the television studio to sustain an urbane conversation on the inscible horrors of nuclear holocaust, an exercise in which I participated on Monday in the follow-up to *Threads*, BBC's apocalyptic documentary.

The current state of the arms-race provides a close parallel to the artificiality of this experience. As the number and variety of nuclear weapons have proliferated, so has the range of sophisticated scenarios for their use. American strategists have devised increasingly intricate plans for the controlled use of nuclear weapons acted out in simulated war games in which the combatants behave within the confines of assumptions that are about as formalized as the rules of chess. Thus it is possible for them to persuade themselves that it might be possible to wage a limited nuclear war and then break off for negotiations before matters got out of hand.

The frightening unreality of such speculation is patent when it is placed beside the recorded history of any known war, all of which from the Crimea to 1939-45 have been characterized by confusion, collapse of communication and miscalculation.

If the War Cabinet, as we are now asked to believe, really ordered the sinking of the *Belgrano* in all ignorance that it had turned round and had been steaming away for 11 hours, what expectations can there be that in the much more frenetic context of war in Central Europe they would be able to employ nuclear weapons with the surgical precision demanded by the architects of limited nuclear war, or retain control in the midst of the ensuing devastation?

The most probable and certainly most prudent assumption must be that any breach of the nuclear threshold will rapidly and inexorably escalate to trigger the vast arsenals of either bloc. Our understanding of the consequences for mankind of such a step has been dramatically broadened in the past year by the conclusions of scientific research into the likely effect of nuclear war on the ecosystem.

The most profound discovery has been the probability that the release of even a fraction of the available megatonnage would be sufficient to encase the world in an envelope of dust and smoke which would bar the sun's light and heat. Survivors in Britain would emerge through a sub-arctic climate in perpetual dark. Soberingly, the line of inquiry which led to this hypothesis was prompted by research into a similar global dust cloud which appears to have been

associated with the sudden extinction of the dinosaurs.

It is, of course, just a theory, and it cannot be conclusively proved without testing the planet to destruction. Yet in a period when the diplomats of both blocs have achieved scant agreement, the scientists have achieved an impressive consensus across the East-West divide on the probability of nuclear war being followed by nuclear winter.

Even if they are only half right in their predictions, the implications are profound. At its most basic the recognition of nuclear winter blasts away the last tattered shreds of credibility with which the Home Office has been attempting to invest its efforts at civil defence. It was already clear to any inquiring mind that any pretence at preparation for coping with a nuclear attack is patently inadequate when set against a realistic estimate of the havoc it would wreak.

In any case, there is a fundamental dishonesty about the British plans for civil defence which in reality are not concerned with rescuing the civilian population but with preserving the machinery of government, whose members would scurry to their deep-led bunkers while advising the rest of us to stay put under the kitchen table.

Superimposed on one existing ground for challenging the *Boys' Own* optimism of the Home Office, the knowledge that they would emerge from their holes in the ground to inherit a countryside too cold and too dark to sustain agriculture, and a people freezing in towns without fuel.

At a more profound level, contemplation of such ecological collapse should inspire rage at the manner in which the first four years of this decade have been lost. They can produce not a single arms control agreement, but can muster awesome additions to the stockpile of warheads. Both superpowers long ago passed the point at which their arsenals alone would be sufficient to precipitate a nuclear winter, but both busily engage in the irrational activity of adding at an accelerating rate to this grotesque level of overkill.

In Monday's discussion familiar complacency was expressed over a deterrance preserving 39 years of peace. That is a minuscule interval in the history of mankind. Yet on the strength of it we are being invited to accept that constant addition to this delicate balance of terror will preserve the peace indefinitely, even though we now know that the penalty for miscalculation at any time could be extinction.

The author is Labour MP for Livingston.

Digby Anderson

Drowning out the amateurs

Just as we finish this year's holidays the travel firms bring out next year's brochures. The main news is that holidays abroad will be more expensive, especially those in Spain. So next summer may see an increase in the trend to take a week's holiday at the English seaside, a trend already established this year, according to a report out last week. Those contemplating such a drastic step should be warned - not of the traditional dangers, they are well known: modest hotels with astronomical prices thanks to excessive rates, extortionate capital taxation, absurd minimum wage requirements and the result of bureaucratically induced fire escapes and fire doors which give the guest a choice of two assault courses to the bar. And, of course, next year there will be rain.

Now there are new dangers. When I grew up, in a small seaside town, there was a man known as the safety boatman. He was not young and sat, most of the day, dozing in a wicker chair anchored in the bay. He barked at any young swimmer who came near enough to disturb his doze but otherwise did no serious harm at all. When the sea was the slightest bit rough, looked as if it might be about to be rough or had recently been being rough, he parked his boat in the harbour and sought prolonged refuge in the Admiral's Arms, having run up a flag signalling that it was dangerous to bathe. Then one could swim or drown in complete peace.

He has been replaced by four young persons with bleached hair, T-shirts and baseball caps who zoom round the bay in a selection of fuel-guzzling speed boats. Because there are four of them - and goodness knows how many more in neighbouring bays - they require radios through which they communicate with one another. No doubt they are classified Recreation Services, Sub-division: Foreshore, Beach Guards Grades 1 to 3, have been "trained" and are members of a maritime sub-branch of NUTPE. They and all their boats, radios and equipment live in an immense hut. This is also the centre of the Orwell Service - a system of loudspeakers deployed all along the back of the beach.

Every ten minutes the Orwell Service wakes everyone, announcing to manifestly disappointed parents that their child, whom they have been trying all day, at last successfully, to lose, has been found. Would they please come and collect him. The announcements have a curious effect: sometimes nobody appears to answer them, sometimes the entire beach population surges towards the Orwell Centre, crushing everything in its path. This may, in some mysterious way, be because all the lost children are identified as answering to the name of Daren - or

possibly Karen - the Centre's voice has an advanced adenoidal condition.

The loudspeakers are also used to warn about various swimming hazards. Whether this beach bureaucracy prevents drowning we do not know. As is common with all preventive services, if accident figures fall it will claim success, if they rise this will be offered as evidence of the need for more resources - a more powerful transmitter no doubt. Few people drowned before the age of bureaucracy, and those who tried to were usually saved by other swimmers.

What is new about all this is the equipment and the apparent professionalism. These are increasing characteristics of English beach life. When I grew up, those who went down in costume and, if they were a doctor trying to look casual but professional, a vaguely naval cap. Now they wear rubber trousers, pixie shoes with an extra grip feature, inflatable life jackets and safety straps. It is widely suspected among locals that they are all teachers.

The families who sit on the beach must be about to eat sandwich-spread sandwiches and Swiss roll, ensconced in standard green and white deckchairs. Now they bring chairs, windbreaks, mallets (for the windbreaks), inflatable dinghies to encourage their children to emigrate, and enormous "cool boxes" stuffed with bottles of sweet Yugoslav wine and three-course meals, usually including an unappealing pizza.

At the end of the day men used to come and gather the empty Swiss roll packets with the aid of pointed sticks. Now the beach is cleared by a municipal tank. This also removes the seaweed and its smell. Breathe deeply now and you will fill your lungs with Ambie Solaire.

This is not simply a phenomenon of affluence. More money could be spent on jellied eels and boat rides and, indeed, swimming lessons, but the preference is for equipment. One expects such things of the French. It is difficult to get through dinner in a French home without being shown your host's latest fishing rod, binoculars, camera of shotgun. But at least the French never take them out of the house.

While the English beach displays its yachting, life-saving and lurching paraphernalia under the ever-watchful eyes of the Orwell Centre, on the cliffs above in a school of English, assorted foreigners are being taught the characteristics of English culture and expression - phlegm, understatement and, above all, amateurism.

The author is Director of the Social Affairs Unit

150 من الامتحان



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

NOT BY SHOW OF HANDS

That section of the Trade Union Act 1984 which comes into effect today removes immunity from legal action in cases where trade unions do not hold a ballot before authorizing or endorsing a call for a strike or any other action causing workers to breach their contract of employment. A further condition of immunity is that a majority of those voting do actually vote in favour of the action. Immunity is also removed if the ballot is held more than four weeks before the strike begins.

On all these grounds the NUM, if it were today initiating its operations, would have no immunity from legal action, since it has not called for a national ballot and has even ignored those regional ones which went against it. That may seem a fairly nebulous consideration given the NUM's defiance of procedure, its existing loss of immunity for promoting secondary action and excessive picketing, and its leadership's persistent organization of criminally violent operations across the land.

But the act is very relevant to any action proposed by those members of the TUC who are now contemplating strikes by their members to lend support to the NUM. The various attempts this summer by the transport unions to drag their members into this battle have failed. They failed because their members do not want to lose their own jobs. They failed doubtless because those members also felt disconcerted by Mr Scargill's violent tactics. Perhaps they failed because they knew that his refusal to contemplate the closure of any pit which contained any parcel of coal, however expensive to extract, is fundamentally untenable in the world today. It is as though the tax-

payer were being asked to maintain publicly funded long-bowmen, regardless of demand for longbows, as long as there were enough yew trees left standing to provide the wood.

The transport unions have tried to get round their members' reluctance by manufacturing artificial disputes with employers, in the docks and on the railways. They hoped such a ploy would excuse them from loss of immunity through pursuing secondary action. That did not work for long. Now the loss of immunity would be immediate on all grounds, unless they could cajole their members into a favourable ballot and redress some primary reason for withholding labour. That seems unlikely in circumstances where they are being hassled to deliver for Mr Scargill.

Loss of immunity does not, of course, mean that these unions would necessarily be sued for their actions. Among all those people and firms who have suffered from the coal strike few may have suffered from the effects of secondary action. Small businesses in Yorkshire, for instance, are being fiercely squeezed. They are casualties of the strike through no fault of their own. Do we hear of any campaign for special help for the corner shops in mining communities? There is no evidence that they receive rate or mortgage holidays with which some strikers have so far been endowed.

The NUM has not been immune from its secondary action against, for instance, suppliers of coal and iron ore to British Steel. However, British Steel has demurred, and it has been left to the haulage firms to take the NUM to court.

This legislation has already been denounced by the unions as

an intolerable intrusion into their procedures. There is more to come in the form of secret ballots for the election of officials and a review of the mechanism for raising political contributions from members. None of this imposes on the union any greater discipline than that required of firms under the weight of much company legislation, and few firms anyway have the power to wreck so many other people's lives by their decisions.

The claim to immunity from the laws which affect the rest of society applies uniquely to trade unions. Nothing like it has been witnessed since the Church had its immunity in the middle ages. But the habits of privilege ingrained over 78 years, since the Trades Dispute Act of 1906, will not easily be broken down, particularly when they are combined with monopoly power within the economy. Then they are almost impregnable. That can be seen by the innate strength of the NUM even though Mr Scargill is leading a fiercely divided and unhappy union.

In the next phase of its union legislation this government should start to consider the concept of "rights" for trade unions, clearly defined and bestowed by law, in place of immunity from other laws. This thinking has already been raised by Sir John Donaldson, the Master of the Rolls, in a lecture last year. It would help to remove the attitude of being above the law which is so persistently and arrogantly put forward by trade union leaders today. Their negative attitude to the legislation which restores some control of their unions to the rank and file tells its own story of where these men stand in relation to real trade union democracy.

SCEPTICISM OVER SUDAN

The Muslim New Year yesterday (or today, depending on when the new moon was visible from where you are) has special significance this year in Sudan, where AH 1405 has been decreed by President Nimeiry as the country's first "Islamic" financial year. This means that conventional taxes are to be replaced by the Muslim *zakat* or poor-rate, levied at a flat 2½ per cent on capital, and *ushr* or agricultural dues, levied at 10 per cent of assessed crop yield.

Mr Awad al-Jid Muhammad Ahmad, Minister at the Presidency for Legal Affairs, predicted back in March that the new system would more than double tax revenue, because taxpayers would feel a stronger sense of moral obligation. But economists, including those in the international donor institutions on which Sudan's bankrupt economy is totally dependent, are sceptical about this. Some have gone so far as to describe the budget passed on August 28 (two months after the end of the previous financial year) as "totally unrealistic". The finance minister, Mr Ibrahim Moneim, confronts an uncomfortable sceptical audience in Washington this week at the annual meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. But it is an audience he must convince before the club of Sudan's creditors meets in Paris in November.

In his budget speech Mr Ibrahim "made it clear that the

collection of *zakat* was not the responsibility of his ministry", according to the government-controlled news agency SUNA. In Washington donors are likely to be asking him whose responsibility it is, while he will be asking them, and they may be asking each other, whether the United States is going to bail Sudan out once again.

Reports that Chevron Oil, under strong pressure from the US government, has agreed to resume the exploration in the South, which it halted last February after attacks by the rebels of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement, may suggest that Washington is still determined to back Mr Nimeiry. Mr Nimeiry himself, perhaps under pressure from his friends in Washington and in Cairo, indicated on Sunday that he is now willing to go back on the decision which prompted the renewed fighting last year: the division of the South into three separate regions.

That announcement will hardly be enough to defuse the situation now, however. It was made at a conference of Muslim "scholars" (among them Mr Muhammad Ali, the distinguished American boxer) to mark the first anniversary of Mr Nimeiry's introduction into Sudan of his own version of the Sharia, or Islamic law, which has become in itself the burning symbolic grievance of the predominantly Christian and animist South, always resentful of

"Arab", i.e. Muslim, domination.

The salient feature of this legislation has been the use of amputation as a punishment for theft and of flogging for a wide range of offences including possession or consumption of alcohol and "suspected intended adultery". Since the proclamation of the state of emergency on April 29, there have been hundreds of arrests for such offences, many of them on the basis of officially encouraged private denunciations. Although the "Islamic" punishments do not seem to have been applied in the south, they have been applied to southerners in the north. They are said to have reduced the crime rate spectacularly, but many Muslims both inside and outside Sudan strongly dispute their Islamic character.

Above all they dispute the Islamic credentials of Mr Nimeiry himself, who originally came to power with communist support and now has the face to proclaim himself "imam", requiring from his ministers the *bay'a* - the traditional allegiance given to the caliphs of old. Mr Sadiq al-Mahdi, leader of the Ansar sect and former prime minister of the Sudan, has now been in prison for one year simply for questioning the Islamic authenticity of the regime.

Mr Nimeiry may be a friend of the West, but his current behaviour will take some explaining to Western public opinion.

ON THE MOVE ON MOVING HOUSE

Not even a trade union defending an old Spanish custom is as tenacious as a profession rallying to protect a profitable restrictive practice. Giving evidence to the committee set up to consider how to open up house conveyancing to non-solicitors, the Law Society declared that the Government's plans involved overwhelming dangers, threatened to reduce rather than increase competition, and might destroy a nationwide network of legal services to the public. But the solicitors' impressive rear-guard action against an erosion of their monopoly now appears to be at an end. The Law Society professes itself mollified by the first report of the committee, which has thus achieved the remarkable feat of earning praise both from the solicitors and from the Consumers' Association, which promoted the private member's Bill which last year persuaded a reluctant Government that its own hostility to restraints on trade were applicable in this case.

The committee has noted the Law Society's apocalyptic predictions, but has applied itself narrowly to its terms of reference without regard to wider consequences. Its main contribution is

to set out in detail the safeguards that should be provided if conveyancing is to be opened up. Rightly, it judges that the safeguards should be stiff. The sale of purchase of a house is the most significant financial transaction that most people ever engage in, and those who offer to take charge of the transaction for gain should be able to handle not only the majority of straightforward cases, but also the more difficult problems which sometimes crop up unpredictably.

A more discursive committee might have accepted the solicitors' invitation to take a wider view of its commission to consider the requirements of adequate consumer protection - though the outcome of its reflections might have brought the profession little satisfaction. The Law Society now accepts that outsiders are going to be allowed to intrude upon their profitable preserve, but is still reluctant to see banks and building societies providing a conveyancing service as part of a house-purchase package with which solicitors might be unable to compete.

Real problems of conflict of interest may arise here, which

the committee has made no attempt to resolve, leaving the problem to its new licensing authority and the professional bodies. The solicitors' most impassioned argument against competition of this kind is that conveyancing business subsidises many other kinds of legal work, and that without it many solicitors' offices might have to close or amalgamate, drastically restricting the availability of legal services. This argument was based on the very debatable proposition that it was in the public interest for house-buyers to subsidise other users in this way. It was always hard to reconcile with the official requirement that a fee should be "fair and reasonable in accordance with the work done".

The committee recommends that the new licensing council should regulate fees in accordance with the same principle. If on this basis the threatened collapse of legal services over much of the country proves to be more than a figment of special pleading, then it will have to be dealt with as a problem in itself. But it will be better out in the open, rather than obscurely subsidised by means of a restraint on trade.

Further thoughts about the bishop

From Mr A. O. H. Quick

Sir, I have considerable sympathy for the general point that the Bishop of Durham was making - the lack of hope in the North-east - but I cannot believe that any Bishop of Durham in my lifetime would have preached such a muddled sermon.

The mining dispute is largely a red herring, as the mining industry is a small part of the problem and the miners have been offered good terms. But the unemployment and dereliction are very real. I drove through Consett recently; the great works have been levelled to the ground and there is nothing but desolation.

A serious attack on unemployment in the North and Midlands would almost certainly mean attacking two of the present pillars of our politics - the privilege of unions and our membership of the EEC, which so far has had a disastrous effect on manufacturing employment. It is, I think, a pity that the bishop did not challenge these two sacred cows.

Any solution to the unemployment problem is going to require more radical thought than the bishop or anyone else has been able to give.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY QUICK, Headmaster,
Bradfield College,
Reading,
Berkshire.
September 24.

From Dr G. E. Rodmell

Sir, As one who shares the beliefs neither of the Bishop of Durham nor of Mr Arthur Scargill but who was actually present at the bishop's enthronement, I write to express my regret that a minister of the Crown, Mr Peter Walker, should have seen fit to utter such ill-judged remarks as he did concerning the bishop's enthronement address.

If Mr Walker took the trouble to read what the bishop actually said there must be well aware that in his address (a copy of which I have before me) Dr Jenkins made no foolish statement to the effect that there is, to use Mr Walker's own words, "something wrong with being either elderly or American". If he did not take the trouble to read the bishop's words before delivering himself of such a comment then Mr Walker shows himself as alarmingly irresponsible.

In either event it is he, rather than Dr Jenkins, who is speaking (again in Mr Walker's own words) about "fiction rather than about facts".

Enough, Mr Scargill, despite his ironical welcome of divine intervention, must be well aware that Dr Jenkins's words offer no support to the extreme posture which he and some of his supporters have taken up. To suggest, as does Mr Eidon Griffiths, MP, that anything that Dr Jenkins said remotely resembled "encouragement of the men of violence on the picket lines" is simply ignominious.

The Bishop of Durham is perfectly capable, I am quite sure, of standing by what he said. I see no reason, however, why he should be accused of that which he has not said. The enthronement address was, as the Archbishop of Canterbury has rightly pointed out, a statement of the importance of reconciliation and an attack on fanatical absolutism in all spheres. Those who attack that view stand revealed in remarkably unattractive colours.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM E. RODMELL,
Garden Villa,
Crosland Moor,
Durham.
September 23.

From Dr A. E. Armstrong

Sir, Bishops who wish to have their say on public issues of the day, and for a party draw their swords, can do so in the House of Lords. It is not then extremely odd to do so in the House of God?

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH ARMSTRONG,
Gayhurst,
Lincombe Lane,
Boars Hill,
Oxford.
September 23.

Sorting the mails

From the Chairman of the Post Office Users Council for Scotland

Sir, I have read with interest your editorial of September 13 and, in particular, your suggestion that a differential pricing policy should be considered by the Post Office in the hope that it would redress the imbalance which, it is felt, may exist between the cost of delivery of rural mail as against urban mail.

You will understand how, in a country such as Scotland, with a very large "rural" area in proportion to its "urban" area, such a proposal would be not just politically unpopular but in practice unworkable.

The proposal would appear to proceed upon an assumption that the cost of delivering mail varies with the distance over which it has to be carried. In fact, it has been found that this is not so, and that indeed, the most significant part of the cost of delivering mail is in the handling, including the collection, initial sorting for outward despatch, final sorting for delivery, and delivery by the postman himself.

These operations apply irrespective of whether the mail is collected and delivered to an urban or a rural area or one of each. Apart from this, the procedural changes which would

Consultation in the Ponting case

From Mr S. C. Silk, QC

Sir, In her reply to Mr Kinnock's letter concerning the prosecution of Mr Ponting the Prime Minister emphatically asserted that "the Law Officers did not seek the view of, or consult with, any other minister, nor was the view of any other minister conveyed to them, before they took their decision to prosecute Mr Ponting".

As a statement of fact I do not question this assertion. Had it been incorrect the Law Officers would certainly have corrected it. It is unfortunate, however, that they have not yet corrected the inference which many are likely to draw from it, that it would have been wrong for them to consult with or to hear the views of ministers with a departmental concern.

For the last half-century at least Law Officers have followed the principle to which Sir John Simon and later Lord Shawcross gave expression. In reaching their decision whether or not to consent to a prosecution - or to take other action within their independent public interest - the Law Officers must take instructions from nobody; but they are free to consult colleagues, particularly those with a departmental concern, and as Sir John Simon rightly said, there are times when they would be fools not to do so. In a case such as the Ponting case it is hard to believe that there are no aspects of the public interest upon which consultation with colleagues could have assisted the Law Officers in reaching their eventual and independent decision.

Even now that the decision has been made there is surely an

important aspect of which the Attorney General should at no stage lose sight. That is whether in all the circumstances a fair trial is possible. By "fair trial" I do not mean merely fair to the defendant, important as that is; I mean fair to the public interest.

Is it still possible, after all the attention paid to this case at party conferences, in well publicized articles and letters and in the media generally, for a jury to give a true verdict according to the evidence; or will the trial, however careful the trial judge, inevitably become a forum for canvassing issues - freedom of speech, the responsibility of Crown servants to Parliament, the limits on their responsibility to the Crown - which are themselves vital aspects of the public interest and which no intelligent juror could easily dismiss from his mind and his conscience?

This is precisely the sort of case upon which long and anxious consideration should have been - and I hope was - given before a consent to prosecute under section 2 was issued. But the grant of that consent is not a final act. The Attorney General should consider with the deepest anxiety, and certainly if necessary after consultation with colleagues concerned, before he decides to allow events to take their course.

Yours faithfully,
SAM SILK, QC,
The Crown,
The Green,
East End,
North Leigh,
Wiltshire,
Oxfordshire.
September 24.

Hongkong's future

From Mr John Walden

Sir, In the three parliamentary debates on Hongkong's future in 1984 and not one of them will be obliged to suffer the consequences should their optimistic assumptions of communist China's reliability turn out to have been ill-founded.

Mr Bernard Lee's proposals (September 15) to resettle Hongkong people who adjudge communist pledges by track record may not be practical. But in advancing them he accurately reflects the fears of very large numbers of Hongkong people, who, for reasons that are clear enough to those who are vulnerable to retaliation, cannot be loudly articulated. Their point of view was almost totally ignored in the July debates.

Whatever the merits of the parliamentary convention of not making party capital out of colonial issues, Parliament's job, when the Sino-British declaration comes before it, is not to carry it shoulder high through both Houses on a wave of bipartisan wishful thinking. It is to apply to it the same critical and searching scrutiny that it does to domestic issues. Otherwise it will not be seen to be holding the Prime Minister accountable for the promises she gave to the Hongkong people in Hongkong in 1982, that Britain would fulfil its moral responsibilities towards them.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN WALDEN,
St John's College,
University of Hong Kong,
82 Pokfulam Road,
Hong Kong.
September 23.

Final salvo?

From Mr Tam Dalyell, MP for Linlithgow (Labour)

Sir, Your leader, "Final salvo?" (September 21), says "This week's detailed disclosures certainly torpedoed Mr Tam Dalyell's main charge that the Belgrano was sunk to supper peace moves. So he has now changed his ground."

No. On the contrary it is clearer than ever that Mrs Thatcher's assertion to Denzil Davies that the "first indications" of the Peruvian peace proposals reached London three hours after the Belgrano was sunk is wrong.

On tape, played on Thames TV, we now have the interview between Arthur Gavston, for more than two decades the trusted Diplomatic Correspondent of Associated Press in London, and Alexander Haig. Haig: "The British Ambassador [in Lima] was in on every bit of the negotiations in Peru. He was right in with the President."

take a realistic and long-term view of their future and set their minds at rest, have something else in common. Few, if any of them, are going to be living in Hongkong in 1998 and not one of them will be obliged to suffer the consequences should their optimistic assumptions of communist China's reliability turn out to have been ill-founded.

Mr Bernard Lee's proposals (September 15) to resettle Hongkong people who adjudge communist pledges by track record may not be practical. But in advancing them he accurately reflects the fears of very large numbers of Hongkong people, who, for reasons that are clear enough to those who are vulnerable to retaliation, cannot be loudly articulated. Their point of view was almost totally ignored in the July debates.

Whatever the merits of the parliamentary convention of not making party capital out of colonial issues, Parliament's job, when the Sino-British declaration comes before it, is not to carry it shoulder high through both Houses on a wave of bipartisan wishful thinking. It is to apply to it the same critical and searching scrutiny that it does to domestic issues. Otherwise it will not be seen to be holding the Prime Minister accountable for the promises she gave to the Hongkong people in Hongkong in 1982, that Britain would fulfil its moral responsibilities towards them.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN WALDEN,
St John's College,
University of Hong Kong,
82 Pokfulam Road,
Hong Kong.
September 23.

Was he reporting to London?

"That would be my assumption."

During a visit to Lima (at my expense) in the third week of October, 1983, I was separately told by Fernando Belaunde Terry, President of Peru, Dr Manuel Ulloa, Prime Minister of Peru at the time of the Falklands war, and Dr Oscar Maourua, head of the Presidential Office, that they were in the closest touch with Charles Wallace [the Ambassador].

"How do you expect us to try to negotiate peace unless we were in touch with both parties to the conflict?" they reasonably asked.

Charles Wallace did report back to London. Mrs Thatcher was indeed told. Will she now explain why she has repeatedly told the House of Commons that she had no news of the Peruvian peace proposals until three hours after the Belgrano was sunk?

Yours etc.,
TAM DALYELL,
House of Commons.
September 21.

Failure to back film-makers

From Mr Anthony Field

Sir, Your interview with Mamoun Hassan (September 18), who has just resigned as managing director of the National Film Finance Corporation, highlights one of this country's major problems today.

The British film industry's worldwide successes of *Gandhi*, *Chariots of Fire*, *Gregory's Girl* and *Another Country* are complemented in the theatre with similar successes of *Cats*, *Evita*, *Noises Off*, *The Real Thing*,... and there are many examples of British successes over the globe throughout the arts and entertainment industry.

As Sir Denis Forman said when opening the Edinburgh Television Festival earlier this month, "We are top dogs... British theatre, British television, British films have built a respect for British values... It is the last field of world leadership left to us and we neglect it at our peril".

However, this field of achievement is being neglected - and it is being neglected by the British finance houses, banks and investment bodies, who ought these days to be capable of looking beyond the balance sheets to the creative talent still remaining in this country.

Already American impresarios are moving into the ownership of West End theatres and entertainment companies. Particularly with the present exchange rates, it is increasingly unlikely that the money which can be earned by investment in the industry can be kept in this country. This country's financial and commercial brains fail to grasp what the Oscar-winning David Puttnam explained, also at Edinburgh:

"Every time I've tried to work within the precepts of the market place I've failed. Once you make a creative compromise in order to meet the market place half way, you mess around with the creative truth and you fail".

Unless we can persuade the commercial financiers that our industry is worth investment, then indeed we have lost the last field of world leadership left to us.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY FIELD,
As from: The City University,
Frobisher House,
Frobisher Crescent,
The Barbican, EC2.

Export of art

From Mr Denis Mahon, FBA, and Mr Michael Hirst, FBA

Sir, Lord Cottesloe (September 20) calls for an overhaul of the workings of the art export system. In supporting this, we may stress that there is general incomprehension in informed circles as to precisely why the Reviewing Committee failed to accede to the request of the expert adviser to shed the rare and splendid Mantegna sheet from Chatsworth (at £1,201,200) to the dozen drawings for which it recommended temporary stopping of export as a matter of principle.

The reasons for this decision will, of course, become available in the committee's report covering the year 1984-85. But as that report is unlikely to be published before March 1986, may an explanation be given now?

Yours faithfully,
DENIS MAHON,
MICHAEL HIRST,
33 Cadogan Square, SW1.
September 20.

Manner of speaking

From Mr John N. Brown

Sir, It is ironic that the *modus operandi* which determined that science has ousted Latin in private schools (September 21) should have been a curriculum census.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN N. BROWN,
6 White Cross Road,
Haddenham,
Aylesbury,
Buckinghamshire.
September 20.

Political patterns

From the President of the Liberal Party

Sir, In my inaugural speech last week at the Liberal Assembly I sought to emphasise that in the search for a post-Thatcher consensus a realignment of ideas must precede a further realignment of people and parties. For this season I acknowledged the contribution to such a realignment made by Francis Pym in his brave and important book, *The Politics of Consent*.

Roy Hattersley's call for Labour to abandon its obsolete advocacy of nationalisation in favour of a policy encouraging decentralised, competitive enterprise, characterised by employee participation and ownership, is equally to be welcomed by Liberals and Social Democrats.

Roy Hattersley joins Frances Pym in the realignment of ideas of which the Alliance is the focus and spur. The old patterns of British politics are breaking up as the nation recoils from the fantastic pursuit of confrontation exemplified by Mrs Thatcher and Mr Scargill. Thank God!

Yours faithfully,
ALAN J. WATSON (President,
The Liberal Party),
2 Retreat Road,
Richmond upon Thames, Surrey.
September 24.

Leading the blind?

From Mr J. C. Taylor

Sir, On the subject of ambiguous instructions, I was very disappointed, on reaching Canterbury Cathedral last Sunday, to find a sign saying "Only guide dogs for the blind allowed entry".

Yours faithfully,
J. C. TAYLOR,
The Coach House,
Albany Crescent,
Claygate, Surrey.
September 20.

The interview with Lord Hinton mentioned in Mr David Lowry's letter of September 21 was in January, 1983, not 1987.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
September 25: The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips this morning visited the new York House Residential School for the Deaf at Doncaster and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for South Yorkshire (Mr Gerard Young).
Her Royal Highness toured the School escorted by the Headmaster (Mr R. Dickson).
The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips later opened the new Special Care Baby Unit at the Northern General Hospital, Sheffield.
Her Royal Highness toured the Unit, escorted by the Chairman of the Baby Unit Appeal (Dr E. Rhind), and afterwards was entertained at luncheon.
This afternoon The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, President of the Missions to Seamen, opened and toured the Flying Angel Club at Teesport, Cleveland.
Her Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Cleveland (Lord Clitheroe) and the Chairman of Tees Station (Captain P. Lewis).
Afterwards The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips opened and toured the Flying Angel Club at Teesport, Cleveland.

Mrs Mark Phillips opened and toured the Flying Angel Club of the Missions to Seamen at South Shields, where Her Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Tyne and Wear (Colonel Sir Ralph Carr-Elison) and the Chairman of South Shields Station (Commander R. Thoburn, RNR).
The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, attended by Mrs Andrew Fielden, travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.
ST JAMES'S PALACE
September 25: The Duke of Kent this evening attended the Fellowship of Engineering Meeting 'The Social and Cultural Challenge of Modern Technology' which was held at the Institute of Mechanical Engineers, Birdcage Walk, London, SW1.
Sir Richard Buckley was in attendance.
THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
September 25: Princess Alexandra this afternoon opened Cadbury's National Exhibition of Children's Art at the Mail Galleries, London, SW1.
Her Royal Highness, as Patron and Air Chief Commandant of Nursing Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service, later received Air Commodore I. J. Harris on relinquishing the appointment as Matron-in-Chief and Air Commodore A. A. Reed upon assuming this appointment.
In the evening Princess Alexandra, accompanied by the Hon Angus Ogilvy, presented the Annual Awards of the Richmond Society at the Royal Star and Garter Home, Richmond upon Thames.
Lady Mary Fitzalan-Howard was in attendance.
The Duchess of Kent, as Colonel-in-Chief, will attend the Army Catering Corps' officers' cocktail party at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea on October 31.
Princess Alexandra will be present at the Horse of the Year Show at Wembley Arena on October 1.
Princess Alexandra, as patron, will be present at a reception for serving and retired members of Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service given to mark the centenary year of nursing in the Royal Navy, at HMS St Vincent, Queen's Gate Terrace, on November 2.
A service of thanksgiving for the life of the late Admiral Lord Jellicoe will be held in the Canongate Kirk, Royal Mile, Edinburgh, on Friday, October 5, 1984 at 11.30 am.

Marriages
Sir Campbell Adamson and Mrs J. Lloyd-Chandler
A service of blessing was held after the marriage which took place quietly in London on Saturday, September 22, between Sir Campbell Adamson and Mrs J. (Mildred) Lloyd-Chandler.
Mr M. E. Burridge and Mrs H. B. Melhuish
The marriage took place on Friday, September 21, at Henley, Thames, Oxfordshire, between Mr Martin Burridge and Mrs Hilary Melhuish (née Brown), followed by a service of blessing.
Mr L. J. Hirsch and Miss S. J. Dickson
The marriage took place on Friday, September 21, in London, between Mr Leopold Hirsch, son of Mrs Joan Hirsch and the late Major Jack H. Hirsch, and Miss Jeanie Dickson, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Dickson.
Mr P. Jordan and Miss C. Gore Langton
The marriage took place on Saturday, September 22, 1984 at the Church of St John the Baptist, Hatch Beauchamp, Somerset, of Mr Peter Jordan, younger son of the late Major and Mrs Geoffrey Jordan, of Thornhill, Kilmagoch, Mayo, and Miss Clare Gore Langton, daughter of Lieutenant-Commander and Mrs Alaric Gore Langton, of Hatch Park, Hatch Beauchamp, Somerset. The Rev Reginald Bevers officiated, assisted by the Rev John Mowll.
The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, wore a gown of cream silk and a Brussels lace veil and family dress. She was attended by Miss Clare Bickford, Miss Jeanie Coates, Miss Alice Vivian-Neal, Miss Lucilla Bathurst, Miss Joan Jordan, Annette Jordan, Sophie Jordan, Henrietta Jordan, and Emma Gore Langton. Mr Nicholas Trevor was best man.
A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P. Bigio and Mrs J. Naylor
The engagement is announced between Philip, son of Mr and Mrs R. S. Bigio, of Dorking, Surrey, and Jenny, eldest daughter of Mr W. D. Naylor, of Eastbourne, Sussex, and Mrs H. E. Naylor, of Reigate.
Mr K. A. Bussie and Miss C. A. McNeill
The marriage has been arranged between Kofi Amaniampon, eldest son of the late Dr K. A. Bussie and Mrs N. M. A. Bussie, of Wexford, Brong-Ahafo, Ghana, and Oxford, and Carol Ann, only child of Mr and Mrs W. McNeill, of Edinburgh.
The Rev J. W. Davies and Miss T. A. P. Karlowick
The engagement is announced between James, younger son of Rear Admiral Anthony Davies, of Aldbourne, Wiltshire, and the late Peggy Davies, and Teresa Karlowick, FRCS, daughter of Mrs Patricia Karlowick, of Southsea, Hampshire, and the late Jerzy Karlowick, previously of Poland.
Mr E. J. B. Hamilton-Ely and Miss S. A. Rothwell
The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Mr P. M. Hamilton-Ely, of Fovant, Wiltshire, and Mrs K. Child, of Fulham, London, and Sarah, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs C. R. Rothwell, The Grey House, East Lutworth, Dorset.

Dinners

Basketmakers' Company
The Prime Warden of the Basketmakers' Company, Mr Victor Lucas, presided at the 415th anniversary dinner of the Basketmakers' Company which was held at the Mansion House yesterday. The civic toast was proposed by Sir Zelman Cowen, QC, Provost of Oriel College, Oxford, to which Colonel and Alderman Sir Ronald Gardner-Thorpe, Lord Mayor Locum tenens, replied. The toast of the guests was proposed by Sir Colin Cole, Garter Principal King of Arms.

Arms. The Chief Rabbi, the Very Rev Sir Immanuel Jakobovits, replied and proposed the toast of the Company to which the Prime Warden replied.
Reception
Society of Pension Consultants
The Chairman and Council of the Society of Pension Consultants gave a reception on September 18 at the City Conference Centre to mark the election of Mr Brian Coots as President of the society.

Bridge

England were easy winners of the annual invitation event organized by the London Bridge Association for the London Bridge Club over the weekend, taking the lead after the third round and increasing to a big win by 30 victory points. The team of internationalists representing London were second.

Birthdays today

Miss Lucette Aldous, 46; Mr Ian Chappell, 41; Mr Neil Cole, 50; Mr Peter Dews, 53; Sir Robert B. Fraser, 82; Lord Justice Griffiths, 61; Sir James Hennessey, 61; Mr P. T. Lewis, 53; Sir Stephen Lake, 79; Sir Ronald McIntosh, 65; Sir William McKell, 93; Lord Marshall of Leeds, 69; the Rev Professor Ernest Nicholson, 46; Sir Herbert Redfern, 69; Mr Leonard Sachs, 75; Marshal of the RAF Sir Denis Spenswood, 68; Miss Margaret Thomas, 68.

Felixstowe College

Academic Scholarships of an annual value ranging from one-third fee to full fees will be offered on the results of examinations to be held on January 23 and 24, 1985, for girls under 13 on September 1, 1985. A Special Music Scholarship is also being offered.
All entry forms must be received by December 1, 1984. Full details and forms are available from The Registrar, Felixstowe College, Felixstowe, Suffolk IP11 7NQ.

Engineers' Company

At a ceremony held in the Fushers' Room at the Tower of London last night a Ceremonial Wilkinson Sword was presented by the Chairman of Wilkinson Sword Group Limited, Mr Christopher Lewington, to the Master of the Engineers' Company, Alderman Sir Peter Gadsden. Also present were the Senior and Junior Wardens, Sir Denis Rooke and Mr T. J. C. Crocker, the Court of the Engineers' Company and members of the Wilkinson Sword Group.

Archaeology

By Norman Hammond, Archaeology Correspondent

Khartoum in Sudan. The great eastern gate is perhaps the most important piece of military engineering of this period in Africa.
The gate was built where a promontory of rock protruded from the main hilltop, and on the interior the gate (the only one into the fortress) opened on to a stairway of 24 steps cut into the rock. It then turned at right angles before emerging from the walls through a gateway only one metre wide.
This lack of accessibility suggests great precaution with security, and the finding this year of a three metre long metal door with an inscription in Merotic that mentions a king of Ibrim suggests that it was a royal foundation.
Three large 10-room houses of this period were also uncovered, complete with water cisterns and plastered living rooms. The heat in the region dries out organic matter very quickly, and has done for 2,000 years of the site's history. As a result more than 20,000 textile fragments, basketry, rope, leather, wood, papyrus and paper are all well preserved.
Among this year's spectacular discoveries were 996 manuscript fragments in seven languages, including Greek, Coptic and Old Nubian, and pages of illuminated texts on vellum. Most of these were associated with the great cathedral which was built on the summit of the fortress between AD700 and 1200.
The cathedral had subordinate churches and a monastic community whose communal rooms and bakery were excavated in 1984. A small cemetery

Science report

by Tony Samstag

Study aims to calm tourism's jellyfish jitters

by Tony Samstag

Marine scientists have coined the delightful phrase "jellyfish bloom" to describe the occasional unexplained proliferation of the creatures, often amounting to a plague, that can clear the beaches of a tourist resort faster than a Red Sea borer can empty a public house.

The economic consequences of such infestations are no laughing matter, however, especially in the Mediterranean countries dependent on the income generated by 100 million visitors each season. Other consequences of too many jellyfish - damage to fish stocks, ruined fishing nets, clogged cooling water intakes in power stations - fade into insignificance by comparison.

So serious have "jellyfish jitters" (the normally staid United Nations Environment Programme is responsible for that one) become in recent years that many tour operators now ask national tourist agencies to confirm the absence of jellyfish swarms before agreeing to block bookings with local hotels.

Mediterranean ice-cream vendors have been perhaps the only entrepreneurs to profit from the anxiety, adding a range of spurious anti-sting products to their wares.

About two years ago Unep was consulted by the Maltese and then the Greeks, who were having to deploy coast guard and naval forces to control the jellyfish swarms. What we call the "jellyfish" is the free-swimming life stage of species of gelatinous coelenterates with the familiar umbrella margin bearing tentacles and sensory organs. There are only about twelve species in the Mediterranean and one, *Pelagia noctiluca*, is the worst and most painful nuisance.

Coastal swarms were first observed in the southern Adriatic in 1976, and have spread since as far north-west as the Cote d'Azur and the Balearics. A variety of current patterns and aberrations has been suggested as possible causes but without much conviction. It is certainly unfortunate that the calm inshore waters most favoured by swimmers are also the most likely areas into which the swarms drift and are as it were becalmed.

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held in Athens last year include climatic changes and eutrophication (abnormal growth of organisms) caused by pollutant discharges.

Although the workshop reached no firm conclusions, it did accomplish something in that, as Unep reports: "The numerous reports of jellyfish swarms from many areas of the sea greatly relieved the psychological pressure on those countries which feared that the problem was theirs alone. No longer need they be afraid to discuss the problem openly and frankly."

New the Mediterranean nations have agreed on a 25-point jellyfish study programme at the end of which, Unep is confident, "very few organisms will be known as well as *Pelagia noctiluca*, and its image shall no longer bring terror to the hearts of the bathers, the hotel operators, and the governments of the Mediterranean coastal states; instead it may well be seen as the symbol of Mediterranean scientific cooperation."

Source: The Star, news from Unep's Regional Seas Programme, no 25 (Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10).

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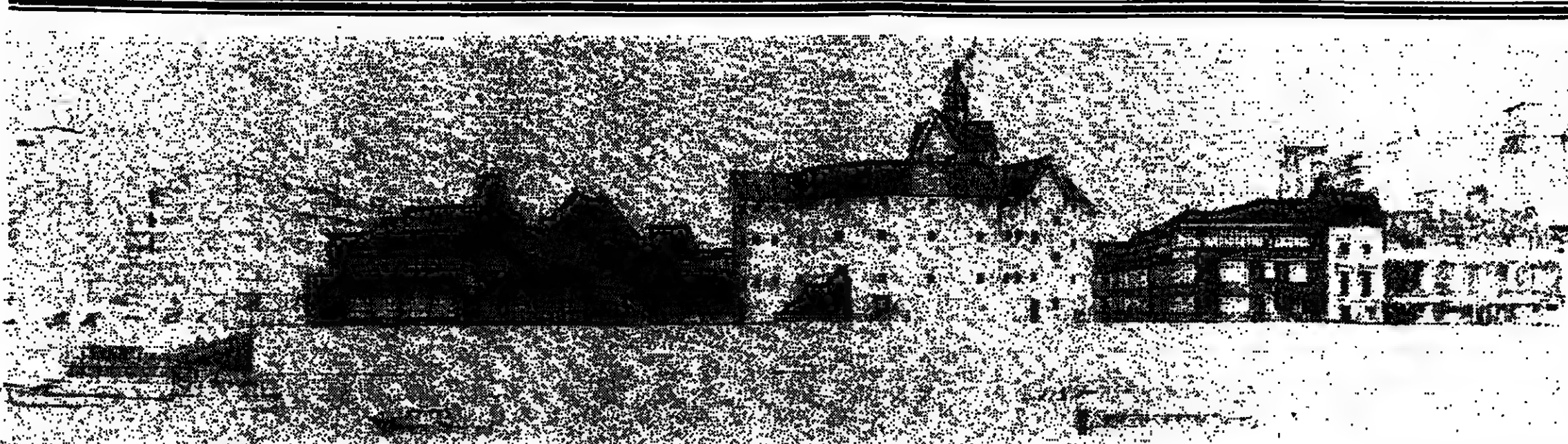
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THE ARTS



Design for the Globe Theatre complex by the architects Pentagram

The spectacular scheme to commemorate Shakespeare's own theatre on his home ground this week hangs in the balance: Bryan Appleyard reports

The Globe cast as political football

This week the ruling Labour group on Southwark Council will decide the fate of the Globe Theatre project. They will do so in the firm belief that the site on the South Bank of the Thames would be best used for housing, to reduce North Southwark's waiting list of 2,000. They will be largely unimpressed by the claims that the site is inhabited by the 500-year-old ghosts of actors and groundlings who once transformed Western culture in Shakespeare's wooden "O".

If the Labour councillors follow their ideological nose it may signal the end of the 15-year fight by the American actor Sam Wanamaker to establish a decent memorial to Shakespeare on his home ground. In early October Southwark's planning committee will discuss the issue – but the real decision will be taken now.

The whole story is ludicrously English. Fifteen years ago Wanamaker was appalled to discover that the probable site of Shakespeare's Globe was a waste land. Clearly the home country had little enthusiasm for its national poet. Wanamaker duly raised cash and enthusiasm in the United States, enlisting names like Getty, Hammer and Fairbanks to the cause. Guarantees of around £3m worth of donations are now waiting to be taken up.

In Britain the name of Rothschild will be on the fund-raising letterhead if the project gets under way, not to

mention the Duke of Edinburgh, Sir David Orr, Sir Peter Parker, Sir Oliver Wright and so on. In Windsor Great Park a stake of seasoned oak is waiting to be pounded into the Southwark earth to launch the project, while every conceivable member of the Great and Good is waiting for an invitation to the ceremony.

Who could conceivably object? Well, for some time few people did. Southwark and the Globe Trust linked up with a property company which would finance the cost of the site in return for planning permission for an office block. Careful postings were done which showed that as an all-purpose international Shakespeare "resource centre" the project would pay for itself. Southwark initially bought the promise of half a million visitors a year, jobs, prestige and so on. The council agreed to proceed with the necessary compulsory purchase orders and to relocate

a road sweepers' depot – a caravan and some concrete sheds – which currently occupies a large part of the site.

With planning permission and the endorsement of Michael Heseltine – then Secretary of State for the Environment – Wanamaker and his friends seemed home and dry. The protests of the North Southwark Community Development Group seemed to have been defeated and Wanamaker could confidently accuse its members of living in the past.

But in 1983 Southwark's socialist Labour council became hard left and suddenly it began to seem that – politically at least – it was Wanamaker who was out of touch. The lists of the American super-rich and the British super-respectable which ran down the Globe's elaborate stationery began to look embarrassingly beside the point.

Time passed and the council did nothing about their part of the

agreement. The depot stayed where it was and no land was compulsorily purchased. Now the original agreement is about to expire and it is up to the Labour group to decide whether to kill the whole thing.

The anti-Globe arguments are: research has by no means established that this is the site of the original theatre – more likely it is a piece of land directly under Southwark Bridge Road, or somewhere beneath Courage's Brewery; this is exceptionally fine land for housing because of its siting away from major roads and its access to the river; and the office part of the package is simply undesirable and unlikely to create employment for the people of Southwark.

This package of dissent has always been there but in the days before the shift from soft to hard left it was regularly dismissed as "rot" or "irrational" by the Globe supporters. They had evidently fallen victim to over-confidence and a certain intoxi-

cation with the spectacle of their own letterheads.

Now they are learning a hard political lesson. A letter has gone to all Southwark councillors from Sir David Orr, chairman of the trust, full of key underlined phrases like "increased employment opportunities", "educational and recreational facilities" and "significant revitalization of the neighbourhood". Meanwhile Alwyn Scrace Dickens, Wanamaker's new man on the spot, is quietly working away, conscientiously at this critical stage declining to make any ripplés. Although clearly, if Southwark's Labour councillors terminate the agreement, a straightforward stand-up battle will ensue. The problem is that, as the GLC has proved, it is the fighting rather than the winning or losing of such battles which scores political points. Southwark may well enjoy the skirmishes and delays of a protracted war while it could kill the

well-meaning impetus of the Globe project stone dead.

What could save the Globe, however, is the complexity of the legal situation surrounding the development. The agreement entered into by the "soft" Labour group may prove legally binding on the "hard" councillors. The agreement was with Derno – the developers – and not with the trust, however, which suggests Southwark could end up with an office block and no Globe, seemingly the worst of all possible worlds.

Tony Ritchie, the Labour group leader, spent the weekend wading through legal advice on the matter but was taking the view that the depot was the stumbling block. He says that, try as they may, the council cannot relocate this so the agreement cannot be implemented. His answer to cynics who say this is an artificial obstacle is that they should show him an alternative site.

In the last analysis, however, the council may find its hands tied, and Derno and the Globe may be able to hold them to the original agreement. The alternative is for a Southwark Council caravan and a few crumbling concrete sheds sitting on a small piece of blasted urban waste land to have frustrated the best efforts of Sam Wanamaker, Armand Hammer, the Duke of Edinburgh and £3m worth of transatlantic cultural goodwill.

Jazz

Masterly melodic adoration

Ruby Braff

Pizza on the Park

Ruby Braff is not a singer, but he knows more about songs than most people who make their living that way. He once told an interviewer that he thought of improvisation as "adoration of the melody", and over a three-decade career there is no record that his cornet has ever contradicted his words.

Born in Boston to exiled Russians 57 years ago, Braff was already an anachronism even as he made his debut in 1954. Encouraged by the great drummer Sid Catlett, sponsored by the illustrious talent-scout John Hammond and soon employed by the likes of Benny Goodman, he was one of a handful of musicians who closed ranks with the giants of the 1930s in a movement which became known as mainstream jazz. Braff never chose to hide his absolute reverence for such as Louis Armstrong and Bobby Hackett, but it was always apparent that he was very much more than a mere revivalist.

His sets at the Hyde Park Corner jazz basement on Monday (which will be followed later this week by several appearances at the same establishment's North Soho branch) represented a marvelous illustration of the ways in which wisdom can comfortably overcome an inevitable shortening of wind.

Of living trumpeters, probably only Wynton Marsalis can match Braff's command of so many techniques associated with the art, which include a soft, whistling tone in the upper register, an ability to negotiate the passage from one legato sweep to another via the short cut of squeezed half-valve effects, and a surprisingly broad sound, reminiscent of the grainy warmth of a cello or a bass clarinet, at the bottom end of the horn.

All these resources enable him to adore the melodies of Eubie Blake's "You're Lucky to Me", Harry Warren's "Jeepers Creepers" and Irving Berlin's "I Got Rhythm" while also conducting stimulating dialogue with his pianist, Brian Lemon.

At one point, when their conversation abruptly slowed from the chatter of "Chicago" to the pensive languor of "I've Grown Accustomed to Her Face", they even recalled the quality of the classic two-part inventions in jazz recorded by Braff with the pianist Ellis Larkins in 1955: unmistakably invited by his partner's phrasing to double the tempo for the piano solo, Lemon instead stuck to his guns and, profiting from the subtle tension, outlined a chorus which glowed with such rich colours that Braff needed all his artistry to devise an appropriate re-entry. He succeeded, of course, in one of those spellbinding moments that define the genius of the art as well as of the artist.

Richard Williams

Television

Britain's great intelligence disaster

In the most fascinating episode of SOE so far, BBC2 last night told the story, or as much of it as could be found above the surface – of *Englandspiel*, the name the Germans gave to the radio game they played with the British for two years. When it was rumoured, they sent SOE a dowsy coded message on

April Fool's Day 1944. For them it had been a winning game. It cost the British the lives of 34 agents and 83 RAF crewmen.

It began when the Germans captured a Dutch SOE radio operator and acquired his code. They persuaded him to transmit their messages in exchange for his life and that of a colleague. He did so excluding the special security check-all messages had to include. The omission was ignored in London. Agents, continued to be sent into the arms of the waiting Germans. The aircraft carrying them were then shot down.

The RAF suspended the flights in 1943. Some time later two Dutch agents escaped from the special prison all the SOE men were held in before being sent to concentration camps.

and made their way to London. The game was over.

One of the two, Mr Ben Ubbink, appeared in the programme. He was one of the three Dutch agents captured still surviving. The other two, Mr Huub Lauwers, the operator whose capture led to the debacle, and Mme. Trix Terwindt, also appeared and one of the two Germans who masterminded the co-operation between the SS, the Security Police, and the Abwehr, Mr Joseph Schneider, told his story.

The British side of the tale was one of ineptitude. One agent after another was lured into a trap. Some were radio operators and each capture gave the Germans a fresh line of communication to the SOE headquarters. Though they concealed their vital security checks, SOE continued to

accept the messages, act on them, and relay information about new agents and flight details.

Mr Leo Marks, a civilian code expert, suspected the Dutch operation and confirmed his suspicions with an unauthorized check of his own. Last night he said that he was inhibited by the Official Secrets Act from speculating why the flights had continued after his report.

The radio records of the Dutch section of SOE, held by the Foreign Office, are said to have been destroyed, so it is unlikely that the truth will ever be known, but Christopher Riley's disinterment of Britain's greatest intelligence disaster of the war made fascinating viewing.

Dennis Hackett

Opera in the United States

Handsome summer gamble

This year's season of repertory of the New York City Opera at the State Theater in Lincoln Center, which includes eight new productions, differs in two major respects from previous years. First, the season began in July and will run until the end of November, thus bringing summer repertory opera to New York (a plan aborted in 1983 because of a musicians' strike).

Secondly, all operas, not in English have been provided with surtitles.

The company that Beverly Sills heads recently had some rough sailing, because of disastrous artistic choices and runaway financial problems. But 1984 has brought a new stability, with Sills successful in raising new monies and in cutting her deficits, and with the conductor Christopher Keene appointed as music director. In 1986, the company will once again play in Los Angeles, this time for a six-week season.

The gamble as to summer opera (which no one had ever tried before) paid off handsomely, with most of the sales coming at the box office on the day of the performance (which, in several cases, had to be delayed because of the lines waiting to buy). The gamble as to surtilling has worked, despite the grumbles of several critics who object to the mis-translations of the flashings words. Audiences – especially the less sophisticated ones – like them, and surtilling has become endemic in the United States. It is even under consideration at the Met.

Sills's mix of operas, which includes both old and new, classic and out-of-the-way, traditional and Broadway, is one

which has long been the most successful for the company, and the spirit engendered by the City Opera's fortieth anniversary has resulted in a noticeable improvement of morale. The adventurousness of Sills's programming, moreover, and the plethora of her new productions (some imported from elsewhere), has definitely shifted the focus back across Lincoln Center from the Met, now finished with its Centennial season.

Sills is a strong-willed general manager, and has insisted in her productions, on qualities that may diverge from the traditional, but which will not upset her conservatively-oriented audience, and which will last in repertory for many seasons. The aim, particularly for the operas presented in the summer "season", was to divert without unduly shocking.

A new opening production, *Il Singsha* by Toby Robertson (presented, as a birthday gift, on opening night for the same top cost – \$240 – as the original opening in 1944) was replete with extraneous business, but, by the time I saw it, it was short of some of this (though still containing the "idea" of a revolution breaking out in a Revolt at the end of Act I). The opera was played more for punch than for finesse, which did not disturb the audience.

Curiously, staged by the house's resident producer Frank Corsaro, moved the action to the Spanish Civil War, a provocative notion that gave the opera a flavour of the evening television news. Yet what Corsaro seemed to be aiming for was the current Central American situation of

an entrenched oligarchy versus a rising populace. The legitimate Spanish government was here seen as a bunch of adventurers and partisans, while José became a recruiter for Franco's fascist forces. Yet the energy and detail of Corsaro's work effectively distracted attention from the skewing of the opera's story.

The biggest hit of the summer was the most consciously nostalgic Puccini's *La Rondine* is a minor work, but, presented as a sentimental romance by the producer, Louis Mansouri, enhanced by the performances of Elizabeth Knighton (Magda) and Barry McCauley (Ruggero), and cradled by the salon rubato conducting of Alessandro Scialtani, it succeeded in charming most people.

The operetta wing of the company (as distinct from the music-theatre wing, which presented *Candide* and will present *Sweeney Todd* later) was represented by a new and rather tame staging of *The Mikado* by Louis Mansouri.

Patrick J. Smith

Richard Williams

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LSO/Panufnik
Barbican

Andrzej Panufnik is 70, but not for him an anniversary concert of exuberant celebrations. Rather the composer, who has lived in this country since 1954, chose to conduct the London Symphony Orchestra in two of his most powerful, serious compositions, the *Sinfonia Lirica*, written to fulfil a centenary commission from the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Both works, as it happens, have recently been submitted to important revision and were receiving their world premieres in their new guises. The concerto was short of its original first movement as long ago as 1972; so that what was once the core of the work – contemplative, beautiful music

Concerts

somehow redolent of Henze's Second Piano Concerto in its austerity – became the opening. Now Panufnik has had third thoughts and added an "Entrata" which seems to have no function other than as a call to attention. Compared with what comes afterwards the virtuoso piano flourishes and the orchestra's interlocking scales seem rather superficial.

The played, Alberto Portuguese, slayist with supreme sensitivity where it was needed and tackled the gritty, Prokofiev-like finale with what can only be described as determined bravado. Panufnik, meanwhile, guided the orchestra through his turbulent synopses with the kind of assurance that only the music's creator could possibly possess.

But the high point of the evening was the *Sinfonia Lirica*, dedicated to the Black Madonna of Czestochowa and composed, if the truth be told, as a tribute to the principled actions of Solidarity at the time of the Gdansk shipyard strike. After a successful Boston world premiere, a commercial recording and an airing at the 1983 Proms, the work's first movement has been radically recomposed. The result is still a devout, tragic and personal music, but the orchestration is marginally less frugal, the movement as a whole more economical.

That does not prevent the cry of frustrated anger of the finale from being as dramatic as it ever was. Panufnik may no longer be the avant-gardiste of the immediate post-war years, but when the motivation behind his message is strong he still says what he has to say with immense assurance and sense of purpose.

A pity, then, that each of his works should have been preceded by a Bach Brandenburg Concerto so carelessly played. In the third the LSO surprisingly chose to perform one to a part and, unhappily, without the conductor who could have tightened the ensemble. The Fourth Concerto went slightly better, but to play like this was to put it mildly, an unkindness both to Bach and to the composer supposedly being honoured.

Stephen Pettitt

Allegri Quartet
Queen Elizabeth Hall

The Allegri String Quartet celebrated its thirtieth anniversary on Monday night mainly with quintets. None of the original members remains. Bruno Schneider, the cellist who arrived in 1967, being the oldest inhabitant. But the original violinist, Patrick Ireland (1954-77) returned to help with the quintets and fitted in unsurprisingly well. Indeed, the Quintet in C minor, K406, usually had a finely homogeneous sound.

This work sometimes betrays its origins as a wind serenade in interesting ways, and the canonic Trio exerts positive fascination. In contrast, the final variations, though nicely characterized, seemed rather thin in tone, not in substance. This was thoroughly civilized playing, however, and set the tone of the evening.

Brahms's G major Quintet, Op 111, likewise began as something rather different, its origins lying in a projected Fifth Symphony. Its initial Allegro is prodigally inventive, themes having an apparently unlimited capacity for expansion. The players did well amid the tensions that arise from contrasts between the ardent cello theme, with its leaps and modulations, and the tender second subject.

The concert's tragic utterance came in Op 111's slow movement, full of dark earnestness. A certain dryness in the Allegri's tone, perhaps most apparent in Mozart's slow movement, was apt for Haydn. But dare one say that, coming between the two quintets, his Quartet, Op 76 No 5 in D major, just occasionally sounded restricted? The opening Allegro received a highly charged interpretation, though, beautifully rising to a climax that was resolved only in the last moments. Haydn's long slow movement, too, was quite affecting, with its sustained lines carefully graduated. This was the Allegri Quartet at its best.

Max Harrison

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Up 'n' Under

Donmar Warehouse

This latest Edinburgh Fringe transfer shows a different side of Hull Truck's playwright-director, John Godber. His delightful *September in the Rain* was a wry portrait of a Yorkshire couple growing older; *Up 'n' Under* draws much less on his observation skills and gentle humour in favour of one terrific scene, a studio-stage rugby league match which has audiences roaring with excitement and in view of the rest of the play) needs to.

There is a lot to swallow. First shaven-headed Arthur bellows his mortgage that he can train any team to beat the Cobblers' Arms champions. Then five weeks in the gym transforms the Wheatstheat's no-hopers, who think themselves lucky if they lose 30-lb, into a crack squad with fighting chance.

Rocky is frequently mentioned and perhaps this is no more implausible. At least Mr Godber refuses them any easy victory and the green-carpeted Warehouse sees a titanic, intricately choreographed struggle with the six-strong cast intermittently turning their backs to become their own apologetic opponents, ready with either taunts or a knee in the groin.

Underlying it is a vivid sense not only of the comradeship

Theatre

binding a teacher, a butcher and so forth together every Saturday, but the heroes lurking deep inside downtrodden men. That comes over even without the cod-Shakespearean verse constantly rearing its ungainly head or Arthur calling for tomorrow's training rendezvous like Caesar's ghost making a date for Philipp. You also get rare glimpses of the drinking sessions over feeble jokes, a broken marriage and the barriers of steak for school-confiscated porn that get forgotten once a glimpse of glory gives their lives a purpose.

All this barely fleshes out the play and Jane Clifford, who played such a rich character as the wife in *September*, merely links before whipping the unfit lads round her gym. But in Mr Godber's own absence it is good to see other company members: especially Richard Ridings as the slow, good-hearted butcher, Peter Geaves transfiguring the flabby Arthur into a roaring captain, and Andrew Dunn doubling as an irrepressible car mechanic and a contemptuous purple-coated professor. At 11pm they turn into dance-hall heavies for Mr Godber's *Bouncers*, with the Brass Band (warmly reviewed last week by Ivring Wardle) still filling the 9pm slot.

Anthony Masters

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A SPECIAL REPORT

Trinidad and Tobago

After eight years of oil-fuelled prosperity, the islanders are having to learn to live within their reduced means. Jeremy Taylor reports on the new political and economic mood of the country

The problem that has agitated Trinidad and Tobago most this last year - give or take a few regional difficulties such as Grenada - has been the welfare of the economy. The idea that the fat years are over and the lean ones are under way has been sinking gloomily into the public consciousness.

Officially, it is a "period of adjustment" as the country begins to figure out how to live within its reduced means. Wage increases of 40 or 50 per cent, which were common during the years of the oil boom, have suddenly slid down to offers of 6 per cent or so, backed up with warnings about retrenchment.

More than 10,000 workers have lost their jobs since the

in the prize money that the government provides.

How the Prime Minister, George Chambers, who is also Finance Minister, handles the economy in the next two years will have a critical effect not only on the national fortunes but on those of himself and his ruling People's National Movement (PNM), which is in the middle of its sixth consecutive five-year term. Failure to deal firmly with the basic economic challenge - declining oil revenue and slack production - could push the country towards a foreign exchange crisis, with the grim example of Jamaica and Guyana before the electorate's eyes. But too bold a strategy could alienate political support in a country which insists on a high level of personal freedom and which for a decade has had the affluence to exploit that freedom fully.

Mr Chambers' calculations are complicated because the Opposition, traditionally fragmented, is forming a united front which could pose a serious threat to the PNM at the next election in late 1986.

The PNM's political dominance since it burst on the scene in 1956 under the charismatic Dr Eric Williams is largely due to the fact that Trinidad and Tobago has not evolved a two-party system stable enough to create a plausible alternative government. The PNM traditionally holds about two-thirds of the 36 parliamentary seats while successive opposition parties have found their support among the East Indian community in rural Central Trinidad (significantly, the East Indian group is almost certainly the largest single ethnic group now, having overtaken the slower-growing Afro-Trinidadian group since 1980). In addition, political opposition has always produced a confusing array of rival parties which



Pomp and passion: judges of the High Court in sedate procession and, top, carnival and commerce come together as shop girls join the annual parade



Twin portfolio. George Chambers, who is both Prime Minister and Finance Minister

adjustment began: the trade unions are angry about attempts to hold down wage increases and are insisting that sacrifices be shared fairly by everyone. The cost of living is rising sharply: telephone and electricity rates have shot up (the latter by 300 per cent), there is a new health tax to pay, petrol is no longer cheap, and even a weekend hop to Tobago has nearly doubled in price.

Even the steel orchestras - the country's pride and joy and always short of funds - went into this year's carnival contests without asking for an increase

have effectively split the opposition vote and reinforced PNM dominance. But last year, for Trinidad's local government elections, the leading opposition parties swallowed their differences sufficiently to take on the PNM together, and won a majority of council seats. After a year of wary talks aimed at translating a local into a national strategy, the four parties have now established an umbrella organization called the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR), which brings all the major opposition forces into a common front for the first time. The four partners are a motley crew. The United Labour Front (ULF), led by a lawyer and union leader, Basdeo Pandey, has been the official opposition since 1975; Mr Pandey's power base is with the (East Indian) sugar workers, themselves a threatened species. The Democratic Action Congress (DAC) holds Tobago's two seats in parliament and controls the Tobago House of Assembly, while the Tapia House Movement is strong on philosophy but weak on votes. These three fought the 1981 election as the National Alliance, and succeeded only in losing ground to the PNM: the ULF won eight seats, the DAC two.

The improved performance at last year's local elections was largely because of an "accommodation" worked out between the National Alliance and the other major opposition force - the Organization for National Reconstruction (ONR) led by Karl Hudson-Phillips, a former controversial attorney-general under Dr Williams, and a lawyer who has been prosecuting in Grenada in the case against 20 people accused of last October's killings. Though the ONR polled more votes than the National Alliance in 1981, it did so mainly in PNM constituencies, and failed to win a seat even for its leader.

The resulting hybrid NAR is far from being a single party, although the umbrella structure takes it further in that direction than Britain's Liberals and Social Democrats. It contains a vast ideological diversity, has no common platform or policy, and has fought very shy of the leadership question. Mr Pandey can deliver the most votes (and, some would say, the most ambition). Mr Robinson might wind up as a compromise. But it seems unlikely that voters will take the NAR very seriously unless it evolves a clear leadership that looks like holding together even in office.

The PNM is planning to give the NAR an early and rigorous test. Between now and November, elections have to be held for the Tobago House of Assembly - the equivalent of last year's local elections in Trinidad. Tobago has become such a sore point that last month the Archbishop of Port of Spain publicly lamented the "cold war" between the two islands. The Assembly was established in 1980 after years of complaints about Trinidad's neglect of Tobago and even threats of secession. Despite a series of meetings between Mr Chambers and Mr Robinson, the Assembly chairman, the feud has continued. Tobago slipped out of the PNM's control in 1976 when the DAC won both parliamentary seats, which it has held ever since as well as eight of the 12 Assembly seats. The PNM has launched a ferocious campaign to win Tobago back.

Early this year, Mr Chambers gave notice to a PNM convention of a harder line on Tobago, promising to show who was Prime Minister of both islands. His aggressive tactics are a calculated risk. A win in Tobago is important to the PNM if it is to erase last year's defeat, establish its superiority to the new opposition front, and avoid a personal rebuff for the Prime Minister. After 28 years in power, the party - according to an internal report and at least two ministers - needs revitalization, something to mobilize support. A Tobago triumph could be the tonic the party needs.

The great fuddler - plus a flying fish sandwich

Café: sancoche, duff and roti - the names of Trinidad's dishes, reflect the different origins of the islanders and the variety of food styles now available in the country.

Trinidad and Tobago can offer the visitor not only international food and dishes common to the whole Caribbean, but also specialties created by the island's unique cultural history.

First, though, the drink. As everywhere in the Caribbean, the national drink is rum, the great fuddler. Whereas rum in Britain comes mainly dark, as in the standard blended navy rum, or white, as in Bacardi and Seagram's, Trinidad rum is a light gold colour; the brand most commonly exported to Britain is Old Oak. The flavour is delicate, less sweet and heavy than navy rum; white rum, as elsewhere in the English-speaking Caribbean, tends to be a fiery over-proof affair, to be treated with great caution.

Prized export

It is perfectly possible to drink rum as its own. One recipe for "rum neat" specifies two to three ounces of "good, full-bodied rum" and the same amount of cold water. In separate glasses.

You drink the rum, then the water; this is described as a "splendid pick-up after a day's hard work". You can see people picking themselves up like this in little wooden corner shops all over the Caribbean.

More elaborate, and more deceptive is rum punch, the drink of the islanders. The simplest version contains rum, lime juice, orange juice and ice. Other versions include sugar syrup, grenadine and other fruit juices, or a booster of strong white rum as well as the standard golden rum. They can be made up with water or a soft drink, and given a touch of spice with Grenada nutmeg, cinnamon or even mint.

But a Trinidad rum punch is certainly incomplete without a dash or two of Angostura bitters, the faded aromatic concoction of gentian and other herbs and spices, originally produced in the Venezuelan town of Angostura in 1824, but now one of Trinidad's most highly prized exports.

Angostura, as well as being the distinctive ingredient of pink

punch and other cocktails, and is also good flavoured for soups, stews and desserts.

The delight of a rum punch is that each one is different. If you get one that's too sweet, or too sour, you have only to ask, and the next one can have another taste altogether.

The risk is that the fruity flavour disguises what is in the drink. Unhappily, with the arrival of the consumer society in Trinidad, rum has lost status to more expensive imported drinks, notably whisky; a severe case of the grass being greener.

At thirty bob a bottle, rum became too cheap to be fashionable. The rum industry fought back, using the ludicrous slogan, "Rum is Macho", a theme enthusiastically supported by the Mighty Sparrow - in a calypso of the same name.

Occasionally rum seems to be on the way back in Britain, after years in which it was regarded as the drink of "servants and the inferior kind of people," as an eighteenth century writer put it.

A nice non-alcoholic blender with rum, traditionally a Christmas drink in Trinidad, is sorrel. Dried sorrel seeds are infused with cinnamon, cloves, sugar and orange peel, left for two or three days and then strained. The drink is a pleasant red colour, with a fresh spicy taste.

Essential

Trinidad also has its favourite foods, especially roti. This is the staple of the Indian diet - a wheat-flour, flaky flat bread, a cross between a chapatti and a paratha. Folded round a chicken, goat or potato curry, it makes ideal take-away, and is the essential accompaniment to any Indian meal.

Roti is also standard in Guyana - or was until the recent ban on wheat flour imports - and in the last few years has spread to Barbados, which is generally agreed to be a mistake, since the Bajans do other things much better, like flying fish sandwiches.

The most enterprisingly named dishes are coo-coo, and foo-foo; both are found in Barbados as well as Trinidad and Tobago. Coo-coo is made from boiled cornmeal and okra, rather like the Italian polenta, and foo-foo is small balls of pounded cooked green plantain.

Rod Prince

FOREIGN RELATIONS

One year later, the suspicions remain

Last October, as American troops stormed into Grenada, Trinidad and Tobago found itself at odds with the major power in the area, the United States, and with all but three of its Caribbean neighbours - Guyana, Belize and the Bahamas. Alone among the eastern Caribbean islands, Trinidad and Tobago maintained a cool disapproval of the invasion.

US action. It was not anti-American - United States investment in Trinidad and Tobago, particularly in oil, is vital. It was not even a particular popular decision at home, where there was a resentment over the government's refusal to help to "secure Grenada and participate in the peace-keeping force."

But it was a decision wholly consistent with stated policy. How, asks Basil Ince, the External Affairs Minister, could Trinidad and Tobago promote in the United Nations and elsewhere such principles as non-intervention, non-interference and the renunciation of force, all principles publicly endorsed by Caribbean leaders in 1962 and 1963, and then support a military intervention in Grenada?

George Chambers, the Prime Minister, told parliament at the time: "The government of Trinidad and Tobago could not depart from these agreed principles without resort in the first instance to the problem." The action, he said, was "regrettable" - a fairly strong term in the local context - and a regional, non-violent solution should have been given a chance.

The hurt of that affair went deep. Mr Chambers, who had gone further than anyone else in trying to influence Maurice Bishop, the Grenadian leader, complained that as chairman of the Caribbean Community (Caricom) he had not been informed by anyone of the invasion plan, and had heard of the American landings several hours afterwards from the United States embassy. This was soon after he had chaired an emergency Caricom summit which went through the motions of discussing sanctions while several participants were actively supporting the invasion.

The affair inflamed residual suspicions of Jamaica, though Trinidad and Tobago this year agreed to a debt rescheduling programme which cleared the way for Jamaica's new agreement with the IMF.

It probably made little difference to relations with the US itself. Mr Chambers had declined to meet President Reagan on his celebrated Easter visit to Barbados in 1982, and the reason why he was kept out of discussions of the military action in Grenada was that everyone assumed he would not support it. The position of Trinidad and Tobago, after all, has long been clear: it wants good relations with everyone

Continued on page 16

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TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

The slave islands of Columbus and Crusoe

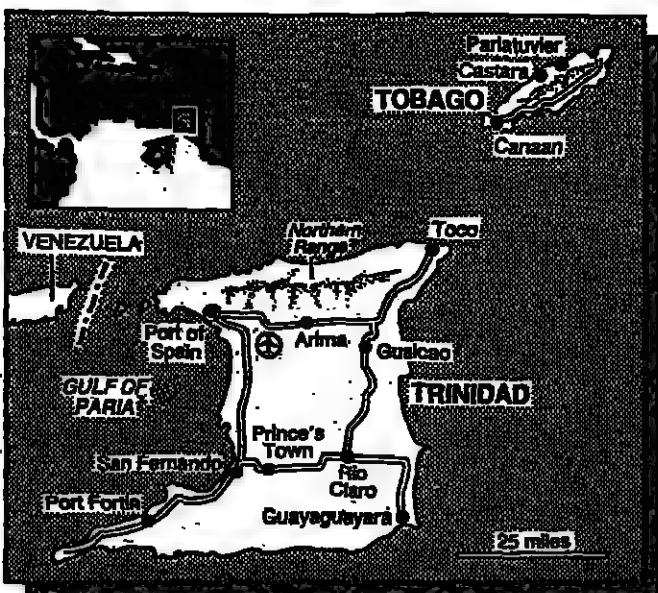
The first recorded date in Trinidad's written history is July 31, 1498 - the arrival of Christopher Columbus. There were then between 30,000 and 40,000 Arawak farmers living on the island, for whom the main threat to peace and well-being came from the more warlike Caribs, raiding from nearby islands. But intent on reaching Santo Domingo, where a Spanish colony had been set up in the wake of his first voyage, Columbus did not stop long in Trinidad, pressing on across the Caribbean.

The Spanish paid little attention to Trinidad for the next century, apart from occasional slaving raids; an attempt to found a colony in 1530 was roundly defeated by the Caribs. It was only in 1592 that a permanent Spanish settlement was founded, at St Joseph, a few miles east of the present capital, Port of Spain.

Even so, for the two centuries of Spanish rule, ending with the island's capture by Britain in 1797, Trinidad remained a neglected outpost of the Spanish empire. More important islands - Cuba, Jamaica, Hispaniola and Puerto Rico - occupied the Spaniards' attention, let alone the mainland of Central and South America.

Trinidad lacked precious metals, and the Spanish settlers did not have the resources to set up the highly profitable plantations established elsewhere in the Caribbean. The main crop was tobacco, and cocoa became important for a few decades, until it was wiped out by disease in the mid-1720s.

Although Spain was supposed to have a monopoly of trade with the colonies, the authorities appeared not to know or care where Trinidad was. In 1662, the governor wrote to Madrid, complaining that no Spanish ship had called for 30



● Tobago, an island of empty beaches and great natural beauty, is credited with being the setting for Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe* (right). The claim is based on his description of the shipwrecked mariner living "Eight and Twenty Years all alone in an uninhabited island on the coast of America, near the mouth of the Orinoque."



years, so that all trade was handled illegally with the British, French and Dutch. The settlers lacked cutlasses and other farming tools, he added, echoing the plea of an earlier governor who had complained that he did not even have a pair of shoes.

Matters got even worse in the eighteenth century, with a devastating smallpox epidemic ravaging the population in 1739. Even before the epidemic, the Spanish settlement had declined to a handful in the wake of the cocoa failure; the Amerindian population had likewise been virtually wiped out through slave raids, disease and repression of their revolt

against forced conversion to Christianity.

By 1765, the island's population was a mere 2,500. St Joseph had gone into irreversible decline, and a new governor who arrived in 1757 took up residence in Port of Spain, then a small fishing village.

Throughout this time, Trinidad came under attack from British, French and Dutch expeditions, with Sir Robert Dudley and Sir Walter Raleigh pioneering the British assaults. On the verge of losing the colony altogether, the Spanish government in 1776 authorized immigration to Trinidad of foreign Catholics.

In the next 20 years, several thousand French settlers arrived, bringing with them even larger numbers of African slaves, setting up plantations and establishing sugar cane, cotton and coffee as important export crops.

Some of the French settlers came from Canada or British-ruled Caribbean islands, where Catholics were out of favour, but the great wave of immigration followed the French revolution and the slave revolt in Haiti.

Very shortly, Trinidad became a slave society. Although still nominally a Spanish colony, it was the French settlers who held power. British

merchants, however, had a strong hold on the island's trade.

The whirlwind of war which followed the French revolution swept over half the world, from Russia to the Caribbean, and as soon as Spain joined France in declaring war on Britain in 1796, the British set out to capture Trinidad. With the island's new prosperity and its key geographical position, the British were determined to prevent it falling into French Republican hands. The Spanish put up virtually no resistance, surrendering in February 1797.

British rule got off to a bad start under the governorship of Thomas Picton, who in principle maintained Spanish law, but in practice operated a highly arbitrary system of justice in which hanging, trouble-makers without trial was a key feature.

Under the influence of royalist French planters, he issued a savage slave code in 1800, under which offending slaves were flogged, tortured, hanged, beheaded, branded, mutilated and burnt alive.

Picton's excesses helped the abolitionist case in London, and in 1807 the British slave trade was ended, followed by emancipation in 1834.

Despite the rapid increase in the number of slaves around the turn of the century, Trinidad had not developed the slave system to the same extent as in other territories: in 1834, there were 21,000 slaves in Trinidad, compared to 83,000 in Barbados and 311,000 in Jamaica.

After emancipation, the need for labour on the plantations was filled by the use of indentured labour from Portugal, China and, above all, India; over 140,000 Indians were brought to Trinidad to work in 70 years after 1846.

During the nineteenth century, the island was gradually

anglicized, with English law replacing Spanish by the 1840s. Towards the end of the century, Tobago was administratively attached to Trinidad, after 50 odd years of administration from Barbados. Tobago had been left alone by the Europeans until the 1620s, but had then changed hands 31 times before it fell to the British in 1803. Among its seventeenth century settlers was a group of Latvians.

Once prized for its sugar, cotton and indigo, it went into decline after emancipation, and became a neglected appendage of Trinidad; a steamship service only started in 1910, and there was no electricity on the island until 1952.

Now Tobago has a healthy tourist trade, based on the island's natural beauty, peace and quiet, and given a fillip by the story that Daniel Defoe used the island as his setting for *Robinson Crusoe*. The claim rests on Defoe's description of Crusoe living "Eight and Twenty Years all alone in an uninhabited island on the coast of America, near the mouth of the great Orinoque." Uninhabited it wasn't, but the rest of the description fits.

The extraordinary tangle of peoples and classes in Trinidad was further complicated in the early years of the 20th century by the discovery of oil, which gave the island, earlier than any other country in the English-speaking Caribbean, an industrial working class.

Trinidad's industrial development attracted immigrants from poorer Caribbean islands, and it was the labour unrest of the 1930s, spreading from Trinidad to other islands, which gave an extra impetus to the campaign for independence, finally achieved in 1962.

RP

THE ECONOMY

A clamp on spending and a halt to subsidies

If the Prime Minister, George Chambers, had any bad dreams this summer, they were likely to feature not the secession of Tobago or a unified opposition but the price of oil. It was the sharp price fall early last year that helped convince Trinidad and Tobago of the urgency of economic adjustment. Each price drop of the US dollar knocks TTS90m (about £30m) or more off government revenue, and tightens the pressure in a situation where oil accounts for 80 per cent of exports and two-thirds of government income.

That pressure is already considerable. Quite apart from the effects of international recession working their way through the economy, crude oil production has been falling steadily since 1978, apart from a respite in the first half of this year. During the oil boom years of 1973-1981, oil revenue increased five-fold to TTS4.25bn but last year it fell back to TTS2.41bn.

The new affluence of the seventies gave the government enormous spending power: there was heavy public investment, heavy spending on subsidies and welfare, generous assistance to the Caribbean Community (Caricom); and a good deal was saved in long-term interest-bearing development funds. Recurrent spending

during the period grew by an annual average of 27.9 per cent, capital spending by 40.5 per cent. And the wealth soaked quite effectively through the nation, boosting demand for cars, household and electronic appliances, housing and imported food. One boom industry of the early eighties has been video clubs and satellite dishes.

Mr Chambers' problem is that these levels of consumerism and spending cannot be sustained in new economic conditions. There is still economic growth, but fiscal and payments deficits emerge in 1982 for the first time since the boom started, and the government began drawing on its savings. Foreign exchange reserves, worth almost TTS8bn in early 1982, are now hovering around TTS4bn. Domestic manufacturing output was down by 4.5 per cent in the first quarter of 1984.

The urgent need is to restrain spending and increase production, particularly in the non-oil sector, so as to reduce dependence on a single industry. Of total exports last year, worth TTS3.73bn, only TTS122 million represented home-made, non-oil manufactured goods.

Last year, the balance of payments was in deficit by TTS2.17bn - four times the 1982 level.

Mr Chambers' strategy has been to steer the country into an adjustment phase along the lines recommended in a 1983 report commissioned by the government from a team headed by the President of the Caribbean Development Bank, William Demas. Called "The Imperatives of Adjustment", the study conceded that Trinidad and Tobago had suffered only "a mild form of OPEC disease" (defined as "reckless

The basic problem is that present levels of consumerism and spending cannot be sustained. The urgent need is to cut spending and increase production, particularly in the non-oil sector

and profligate government spending and excessive external borrowing"). Mr Chambers is steadily withdrawing subsidies on food, petrol, transport and public utilities, and cautiously increasing tax revenue. New export incentives are being put in place, since last October there have been firm restrictions on imports and foreign exchange outflows.

This has caused extra red tape and much gnashing of teeth in Caricom, which is not exempted from the controls.

But the device seems to be working. After deficits in the past two years, the visible trade balance was in surplus by \$133.4m for the first half of this year.

Mr Chambers seems to be fairly pleased but he has warned that "an even bigger effort" was needed to "restrain our appetite for foreign goods and services". In the first half of the year, foreign reserves had fallen by TTS1.36bn, or a quarter of their January 1 level. Unemployment was rising, he said, liquidity was tight, and it was too early to relax.

Although the non-oil trade deficit has been reduced the need to develop new export earnings has been obvious enough. So far, the main thrust in this direction has come from the cluster of steel and petrochemical industries at Point Lisas on Trinidad's west coast.

But, in an economy largely geared to the home market, export consciousness is developing slowly. Both the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) and the Chamber of Commerce are trying to make local opportunities with potential investment and the IDC's general manager, Richardson Andrews, is trying to simplify investment procedures and create a more welcoming climate.

Investment permitting, the

idea is that Trinidad and Tobago will move into areas downstream from its Point Lisas industries - fertilisers, chemicals, pulp and paper, pharmaceuticals, plastics, electronics, machinery and agro-processing.

In the more traditional production sectors, there is less optimism. Sugar, the main agricultural export for so long, is now so hopelessly uneconomic that there is no hope of earning money from it. The country no longer fills its EEC quota under the Lomé Convention and sugar is even imported to meet local demand.

Trinidad and Tobago was once a major exporter of cocoa and coffee, but 1982 exports of both were the lowest ever. Meat and fish production have also continued to decline, while the annual food import bill continues to rise.

In the search for increased production, one predictable problem area may be industrial relations. Most trade unions have not taken kindly to the idea of a wage pause, nor to the assumption that labour will lead the way in accepting lower living standards. The summer disputes have dragged on in all sectors, some of which are seen as test cases which will test the firmness of the policy of wage restraint and set precedents for the adjustment period. In the

public sector, 60,000 public employees have asked for a settlement which compensates for inflation (which different estimates put at between 12 and 21 per cent), but have been offered only 6 per cent over three years.

"Everyone at present is feeling the stress of adjustment," admits Mr Andrews at the IDC, "including the trade unions. But I am not worried that the industrial scene is going to explode or anything like that. Once the sacrifices of adjustment are fairly shared - and seen to be so - the apparent threat of industrial unrest will dissipate."

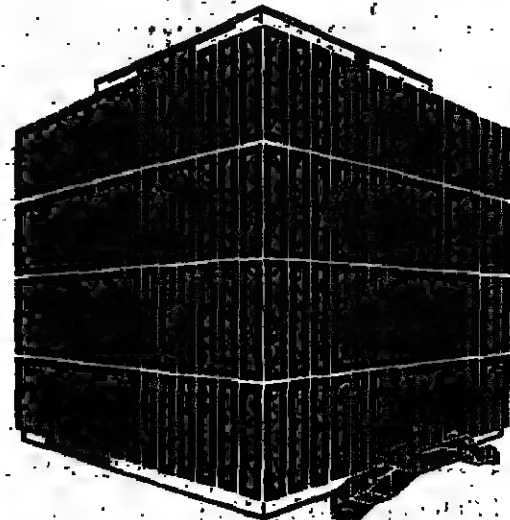
Unemployment has been comparatively low, for two or three years - below 10 per cent - though it has risen since early last year is pushing the rate up steadily. Together with union and employer representatives, the government has been hammering out a draft "cordat" to set industrial guidelines during the adjustment period. After more than a year, the group was still at item three on an eight-point agenda, but had reached substantial agreement on the need for wage and price restraint and the need to share sacrifice fairly. How much of that will cut on the picket line perhaps remains to be seen.

JT

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TOURISM

A lot of coral, little tension

Trinidad and Tobago is taking quite a time to make up its mind about whether it really wants a bigger tourism industry. Traditionally, tourism had been a low priority. There has been oil instead, and the late Eric Williams - who was in power from 1956 to 1981 - disapproved of the effects of mass tourism, insisting that a country's assets were for its own people.

So it is not surprising that, during the oil boom, tourism declined. Although Trinidad and Tobago gets about 3.5 per cent of the Caribbean's stayover business, about 200,000 visitors a year, only about 15 per cent of them are now on hotel holidays. The 43,000 in that category in 1978 had dwindled to less than 30,000 by 1981 (local tourism statistics are notoriously slow to emerge).

The cruise ship business slumped from 65,740 visitors to less than 6,000 in the same

period: the only growth sector was business visitors. Most arrivals, in other words, are returning nationals and friends on private holidays, particularly around Christmas and Carnival and in the summer.

Nevertheless, tourism earned Trinidad and Tobago \$400m last year, and the treasury needs the money much more than it did when petrodollars seemed to grow on trees. The sector also provides about 3,500 jobs.

Somewhat off the beaten track of Caribbean tourism, the islands none the less earned a welcome \$400m from visitors last year.



Yet the two islands do offer plenty of attractions, mostly off the beaten track of Caribbean tourism, with its staple images of white sand, rum punch and swaying palms. Next month, for example, the country's steel orchestras - they're not steel bands any more - embark on a three-week music festival in the new national stadium, playing mostly classical music, their conductors in full formal array.

The first three months of the year are overshadowed by Carnival and calypso, before attention turns to cricket, and also provide scope for travellers weary of sunburn. Quite apart from the riotous pre-Lenten climax, the heady atmosphere of celebration sets in straight after the New Year, making it possible to spend three months or so moving from party to party without once going home.

The fact that Trinidad was once part of the South American continent - it fits neatly into the nearby Venezuelan coastline - means that for the naturalist too it is an unusually rewarding island, packing a wide range of continental and island life into a compact area.

Tobago fits more closely the conventional tourist image: it has by far the best beaches, one of the Caribbean's finest and most accessible coral reefs, and plenty of tranquillity. Norman Parkinson, the photographer, who has built a dream home above the sea in isolated northwest Tobago, says that anyone asking about night life in Tobago should not come, because there isn't any.

Tobago also claims to be the island Daniel Defoe had in mind as the setting for *Robinson Crusoe*. In the cliffs near the airport is Robinson's cave, hard to find and harder to reach, testimony to Crusoe's postlike agility. There used to be a lovely old-fashioned Robinson Crusoe Hotel, and there is still a pizza house called the Crusoe Grotto. The leading calypso singer sings under Crusoe's name, and Stanley Baker was one of several actors who have played Crusoe in the island.

But there are plenty of Tobago lovers who hope quietly that the island will not be developed for mass tourism, because its beauty lies in the fact that it remains unspoiled, free of the tensions and pollutants that develop in mass-market destinations elsewhere in the region. JT

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Suspensions remain

Continued from page 14

except South Africa, it acknowledges US power and shares many of the same values; but it does not share President Reagan's agitation about the Cold War and the beating back of communism. It disapproves of force, and it has no wish to be perceived as a client state of the US.

There has been no serious suggestion that Trinidad and Tobago would participate in the US programme for building up military capacity in the eastern Caribbean.

Greenade left Trinidad and Tobago in the curious position of seeming to have as its major regional ally Guyana, the controversial "socialist" state whose president, Forbes Burnham, was the only regional leader to denounce the US action in terms stronger than Mr Chambers.

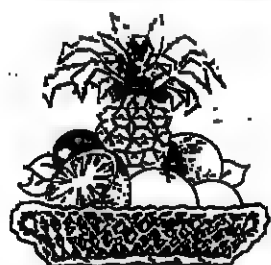
Guyana continues to receive important support from Trinidad and Tobago, in spite of its economic and political crisis, in the form of oil supplies and barrier trade. It is a policy that

could still cause some problems for Mr Chambers.

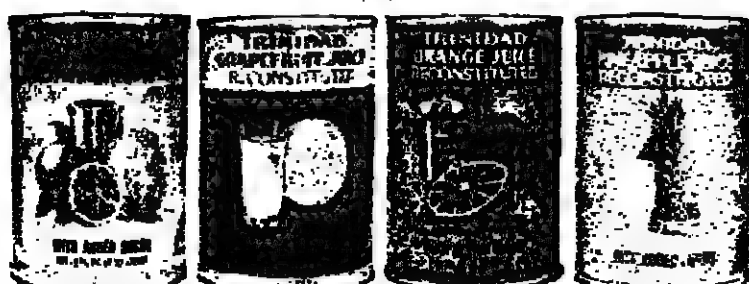
Caricom, including Trinidad and Tobago, has firmly backed Guyana in its territorial dispute with its next-door neighbour Venezuela. But Mr Chambers has steadily defused the tension between Caracas and Port of Spain. Venezuela has offered 20,000 barrels a day of crude for Trinidad's underused refineries, though the deal has been held up by uncertainty over the industry's future; and the two countries cooperated smoothly when a Venezuelan aidiner was hijacked to Curacao in July and spent a tense afternoon at Trinidad's Piarco airport.

It is a particularly important relationship for Trinidad and Tobago, separated from Venezuela by only seven miles of water, with complications over fishing and mineral rights, dramatized by Venezuela's alacrity in throwing wandering fishermen into jail. But even that hasn't happened for some time. JT

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THE OIL INDUSTRY

Taking over Texaco

In the first half of this year, Trinidad and Tobago's oil industry managed to reverse the steady decline which has continued since 1978. Not by much, though: there was a 0.5 per cent increase over the first half of 1983, to an average of 162,326 barrels a day.

Oil is still the backbone of the economy, and will remain so for some time yet. Although imports of crude for refining have virtually stopped, the industry accounts for four-fifths of all exports. But the production increases of the seventies, following Amoco Trinidad's discovery of extensive fields off south-east Trinidad, are not being sustained. There are enough reserves to last another 15 to 20 years, but no major finds have been made for more than a decade, and more on workovers, secondary recovery, deeper drilling and new incentives.

The Energy Minister, Patrick Manning, sees the first-half figures as a levelling-off. "We anticipate that the current trend will continue until the end of 1984," he says. "What will happen in 1985 depends on the kind of work programmes embarked on by the oil companies." This year, the Supplemental Petroleum Tax is due to be reduced on marine operations, as it has been already on land operations, helping to reverse the production decline. Of the six producing companies, the biggest - Amoco - has had most

success in increasing production over the past year. The only company whose output has continued to decline has been Texaco Trinidad.

Texaco owns the larger of Trinidad's two refineries, at Pointe-a-Pierre, with a capacity of 220,000-barrels-a-day. For years, Texaco resisted government attempts to buy into the company, but since 1980, Texaco has been anxious to pull out of refining in Trinidad, and since March has been negotiating with the government to sell at least 75 per cent of its refinery holding.

In a broadist last month the Prime Minister, George Chambers, said Texaco had agreed in principle to sell its local assets and interest to the state for

government with a refinery much in need of upgrading, and with large surplus refining capacity - the country's two refineries can theoretically handle over 300,000 barrels a day, but throughput last year was only 15,800.

The decision over Texaco's future, together with the government's anticipated acquisition of Texaco's minority interest in Trinidad Tesoro, opens the way for a major restructuring of the industry. A national oil company is planned: new supplies of crude refining will be sought - Venezuela has offered 20,000 barrels a day, and negotiation with Nigeria were under way late last year when they were interrupted by a coup; and there

second largest exporter of nitrogenous fertilizer in the world. Tringen (Trinidad Nitrogen) is about to undergo a TTS480m expansion programme and Fertin (Fertilisers of Trinidad and Tobago) has been profitable since last year. A new urea plant has sold 40,000 tonnes to China, while the first methanol plant, which opened in May, shipped 76,000 tonnes in its first 10 weeks to Europe and the US.

Point Lisas, conceived as a way of breaking the pattern of economic dependence on the developed world and of compensating for lost oil revenues, is a long way from holding government revenues steady, and marketing has proved a more complex challenge than was envisaged in the heady days of the oil boom.

The most controversial Point Lisas project is the Iron and Steel Company of Trinidad and Tobago. After opening in late 1980 in the midst of a recession, in the steel industry, it has come up against protectionist barriers in its key target market, the US.

Earlier this year Mr Chambers appointed a committee to examine the project's feasibility and identify a partner to bring in capital and technological and marketing expertise through a joint venture operating company. Last month three prospective partners held talks in Trinidad - Voest-Alpine of Austria, the Bechtel Corporation of California, and Hamburg Stahlwerke of West Germany.

J T

A national oil company is planned and new supplies of crude sought

US\$175m. That includes the refinery, extensive land holdings, and central and south Trinidad, offshore wells and the refinery's support facilities, but not the company's offshore producing fields.

The decision will put the local refining industry under full government control, and save the major embarrassment of retrenchment - Mr Chambers explained that the government could not allow the closure of a refinery which was the main economic support of central Trinidad, including the country's second largest town, San Fernando. But it leaves the

is speculation that the government may want to buy into Amoco, which still sends production to the US for refining, and which has declined to become involved in the Texaco refinery.

Trinidad and Tobago has far more ample reserves of natural gas. The government's problem is how to exploit them. The gas already fuels the Point Lisas industrial estate and the electricity system, but long-range plans to liquefy gas for export and to build an aluminium smelter still await decisions.

Point Lisas has already made Trinidad and Tobago the

It's still cricket, lovely cricket



The young face of cricket, and Trinidad's great all-rounder Learie Constantine. Some believe the game was invented in nearby Barbados

The history of Trinidad is the history of Trinidad cricket. A hundred years ago the game was introduced by government officials, officers and other members of the army. Trinidad had become a British colony in 1797 but it is more than possible that cricket was played before that - indeed it is more than possible because Trinidad is just hours from Barbados where Barbadians at least, believed that the game was invented.

Trinidad is part of the continent of South America. Birds, beasts and trees were originally a part of what is now Venezuela. So also was the soil. In Barbados (a coral island) a few miles away, without much search and a little rolling you could play on the most perfect wickets. But on the more ancient turf of Trinidad for decades we had to water and roll the pure earth and then nail on to it a matting.

For years the international games between Trinidad, Barbados and Guyana (by those days called Demerara) were played on the matting of the one and on the turf of the other two. On matting the ball always turned and the strong in the shoulders or the fingers could make it lift. Hence Barbados produced two great batsmen where Trinidad produced none.

Instead we produced very fine slow bowlers and some hard hitters, of they none hit harder than Constantine's father who was a Caribbean hero before the twentieth century began.

Within Trinidad there was the original club of English estate owners, officers and government officials. These in the Queens Park Club dominated play and organisation. They invited and entertained teams from other West Indian islands and from Britain, to the

delight of the ex-slaves who saw, admired and then proceeded to imitate and succeed with astonishing speed.

At the beginning of the century local players organised a tour in England and the great question was whether to take blacks who had, for the most part, been bowlers at the nets. The blacks were taken and Constantine's father hit some splendid innings.

Trinidad, however, was from the beginning a part of the West Indies side, which included Guyana. Cyrics have noted that it is here, in cricket alone (not even in soccer), that Caribbean unity continues and flourishes.

As far as history can tell us, I do not believe that there was a

square mile of land in Trinidad, where people lived, which did not have a cricket ground. In the old days all clubs did not have a matting but most had the bit of hard turf which was prepared and a visiting club, more affluent, brought its matting with it and took it away at the end of the game.

In the past there was a cricket club for the Chinese community and not so long ago there was a club of white people who were Protestant, a club of the Catholic whites (DeVertemil, DeGannes, De LaBastide), a club of the middle of the class browns and one of the blacks (teachers and government servants) and yet another for the essentially black manual labourers.

Such divisions have been diluted with time and industrial development. By and large, however, he who knows the past can still see them or at least their structures in the present players.

C L R James

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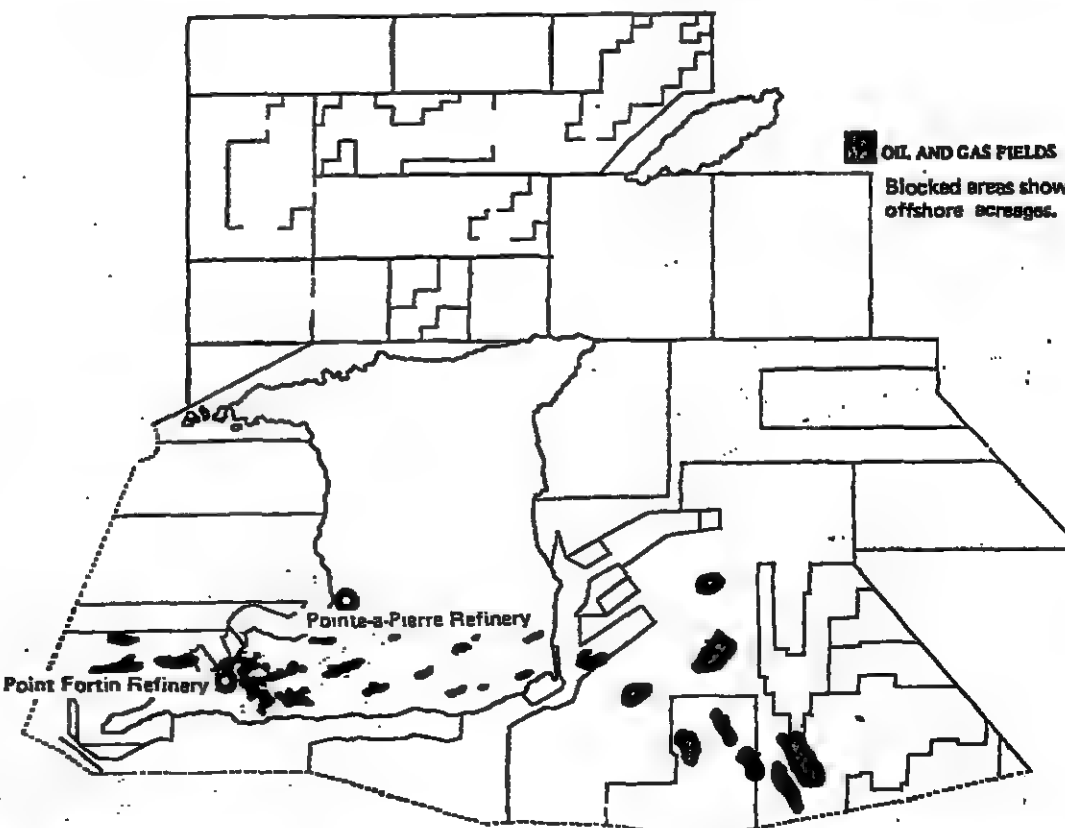
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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Compromise in the air for King and country

Perhaps tomorrow, certainly before the Tory Party conference on October 9, the Cabinet has to adjudicate in the catch-weight contest between Lord King, chairman of British Airways, and Sir Adam Thomson, chairman of British Caledonian.

Lord King is fighting on the ground that any concessions made to BCal should not cost BA more than a minimal loss of profit, nor cut across commitment to BA and its trade unions by successive ministers (Mr John Nott and Mr Norman Tebbit) to keep BA's structure intact, nor cloud in the smallest degree the privatization sale scheduled for February/March next year.

Sir Adam, when he is defending, as he sees it, the unbridled power of a privatized near-monopoly which can kill a small independent airline as easily as swatting an irritating fly. When he is going forward, he jabs at the natural clout of monopolies and seeks to impress the judges with arguments about the virtues of competitors - for the paying customers, for the healthy development of British civil aviation and, not least, for the good of BA itself. He has won the vote of the Civil Aviation Authority, which in its report on Airline Competition Policy to the Transport Minister Mr Nicholas Ridley, in July agreed with the principles BCal has hammered home and recommends that certain profitable BA routes should be transferred to BCal in order to provide Sir Adam with the secure base of profit on which he could mount sustained, though limited and selective, competition against British Airways.

The CAA's seemingly modest proposal that BCal should be licensed in place of BA on the Harare, Bahrain and Jeddah routes (in addition to Riyadh) would satisfy Sir Adam. It has left Lord King cold - with rage. Lord King undoubtedly has the legalistic arguments on his side. He is justified in his anger against those in Government who have turned their coats against him; he was asked by the Prime Minister to put BA in a fit state for privatization and his only error appears to be that he has succeeded too well and should, therefore, have his wings clipped. He would also not be the man he is if he did not resist pressure to go back on his word to BA's trade unions when seeking their cooperation in defeating BA's grossly swollen workforce.

Lord King has other strong supports, notably Mr Tebbit, who believes passionately in the airline (BA) and the Treasury, always eager for the revenue successful privatization issues bring. But all three are surely aware by now that some accommodation has to be reached with BCal and the principle of competition to which every good Thatcher Tory is pledged.

The eventual compromise cannot be based on BCal's clever suggestion of letting BCal operate with BA on routes where dual designation is or may be accepted; that is a road down which BCal cannot afford to go. Nor will it be based on route swapping of the kind which BA has canvassed: the routes BA has artfully suggested BCal should exchange - Houston/Dallas/Fort Worth, Atlanta and the Saudi routes it would future-like to have from BA.

They only basis for reasonable compromise is the CAA's recommended route transfers. These could be made more palatable for BA to swallow if BA were permitted to return its Gatwick short-haul routes to Heathrow: the initial transfer across London was costly and a return ticket would be of genuine value to BA. Furthermore, the commitments made to BA's staff would be much less if BA were to continue using Birmingham and Manchester airports. BA has outsmarted the other independents like British Midland, Dan-Air and Air UK, and turned the dullwits to the worthy burghers

of Manchester and Birmingham very much in BA's direction. The domestic business at both imports is valuable to A and it is there that much of BA's overmanning is concentrated.

The right priorities for state sell-offs

The airline row with its apparent conflict between competition policy and privatization proceeds is only one instance of what many friends of denationalization now believe is a fudging of priorities in the programme. Broadly, there has been too much emphasis on massive issues to provide emergency aid to the public sector borrowing requirement and not enough on running a whole variety of small, as well as big, state businesses into the private sector at the right time and in the right form for their own and the public's interest.

Part of the problem has been that so many of the sales are handled by different sponsoring departments that the denationalization process never seems to rise far up the learning curve. The mandarin's solution is that everything should be more tightly coordinated by the Treasury. But this could put even more priority on privatization as a source of cash flow rather than as a means of improving commercial efficiency and competition.

The Association of British Chambers of Commerce has made a thoughtful contribution to teasing out these issues in a paper by Mr Tommy Macpherson, the chairman of Birnall Quilcast and the ABCC's Economic and Industrial Committee, to be published today. He suggests the Government should set up a small central group, including people from industry and commerce as a means of coordinating vetting of state enterprises for denationalization. The group would mainly concern itself with the hundreds of minor enterprise and subsidiaries that might go private. But there might also be a permanent panel drawn from the central group charged with timing and assessing the right method of sale and generally monitoring the programme.

They would be able to set more systematic priorities such as the detailed readiness of a corporation to go private, the effect on competition and any regulation required and the interests of consumers, taxpayers, employees and suppliers. That would probably mean some of the dominant monopolies going to the back of the queue, which might not please the Treasury.

How to succeed in business

The search for the holy grail of business success is never-ending. The latest attempt to distil the pure wisdom has been made by Mr Walter Goldsmith, the former director of the Institute of Directors, and Mr David Clutterbuck, a management journalist. In their book, *The Winning Streak* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £9.95), they have drawn on the experience of 23 British companies to confirm the lessons of the American book *In Search of Excellence*.

Those lessons are that successful companies share the qualities of visible and positive leadership, autonomy, control, involvement, market bias, sticking to fundamentals, innovation and integrity. The catch is that at least two pairs in that list are contradictory. The unteachable art lies in the ability to achieve the right mixtures of autonomy and control, and of innovation within the fundamental framework.

It is easy to spot when the chemistry is working, infinitely harder to prescribe the appropriate potion for any given company. The volatility of the mixture was demonstrated when one of the new book's 23 winners, Barratt Developments, announced a 30 per cent profits last week.

£568m August trade deficit and dollar rally hit pound

By David Smith
Economics Correspondent

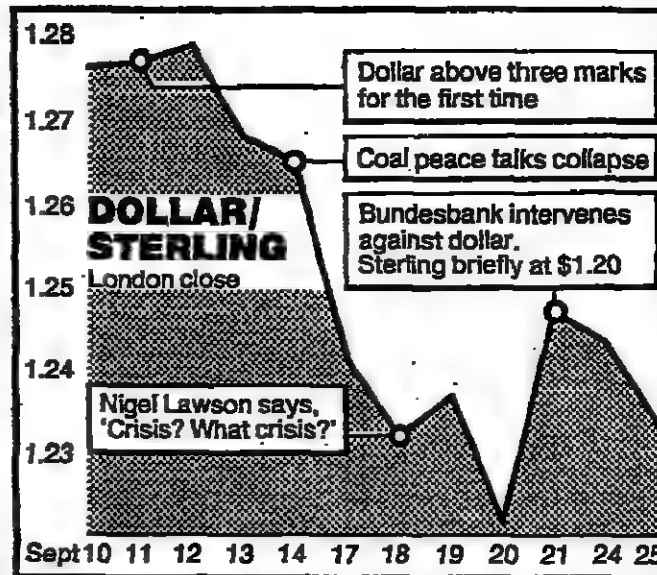
Sterling ran up against a strong dollar again yesterday, closing 1.25 cent down at \$1.2335. Sentiment was not helped by the August trade figures which showed a visible trade deficit for the month of £568m, largely because of the dock and coal strikes. The Sterling Exchange Rate Index fell 0.2 to 76.5.

The dollar was stronger against the Deutsche mark, shuffling off to effects of intervention by the West German central bank. In much calmer market conditions, dealers said no concerted intervention against the dollar was expected.

The dollar's strength came in spite of a 0.9 per cent drop in US durable orders in August, a forecast from President Reagan of an early reduction in American interest rates, and a trimming from 12 to 11½ per cent of the broker loan rate charged by US Trust.

The dollar gained nearly 5 pence against the mark to DM3.0720.

Britain had a trade deficit of £568m in August, compared with £137m in July. After taking into account the £250m surplus on invisible items, the current account was in deficit by £318m.



In August, compared with a July surplus of £113m. The coal strike continues to affect the trade figures adversely. This is largely through increased imports of oil for power stations.

Phillips & Drew, the stockbrokers, estimate that the oil surplus fell to £417m, from £784m in July. In addition, extra coal imports are costing £30m-£40m a month. The cumulative impact of the coal dispute on the trade balance is £1.1 billion, say Phillips & Drew.

This supports the view that, without the strike, Britain's external trade would be in line with the Treasury's target. Non-oil exports, at £4.716m in August, were at their highest

level this year, although this partly reflected the unwinding of the dock strike. The volume of non-oil exports is officially described as flat, despite sterling's recent sharp decline against the dollar.

Britain's trade balance in manufactured goods continues to deteriorate. In August, excluding the more erratic items such as ships, North Sea installations and aircraft, there was a deficit on trade in manufactures of £1,034m.

Unemployment in the United Kingdom is likely to decline next year, against the general trend in Europe, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development predicts. While unemployment in Western Europe is expected to reach a record rate of 11.5 per cent (nearly 20 million people) by the end of 1985, Britain's rate is forecast to edge down to 11.25 per cent.

This represents only a marginal decline, but it is in sharp contrast to the expected rise in the numbers out of work in, for example, France and Belgium. Germany, like Britain, is expected to record a small fall.

But Britain's youth unemployment rate, now 23 per cent, is expected to rise, and the long-term unemployed rate is set to exceed 40 per cent, the OECD predicts.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tea group steps up bid defence

Shareholders in Brooke Bond should today receive another letter urging them to keep the company independent.

But just as Sir John Cuckney, Brooke Bond's chairman, reiterated his argument that the Unilever offer of 114p a share, not to mention the rival Tate & Lyle's 104p bid, undervalued the group the shares hovered yesterday around the Unilever offer price.

The letter comes a week before the expiry of the first stage of the £35m offer from Unilever.

Brooke Bond has forecast pretax profits of £70m for the year ending June 30, against £48.2m in 1983. It has further forecast at least £80m profit and a 6p net dividend for the present year.

HOUSE OF FRASER yesterday won another small victory in its battle to recover the true ownership of its shares when the Court of Session disenfranchised four separate nominee holdings held by Swiss banks. The restriction prevents the shares from being transferred or voted or any dividends being paid upon them. Only about 70,000 shares are affected.

ARTHUR BELL & SONS, the whisky distiller, has reported pretax profits of £35.2m for the year to June 30 up from £31.3m. Turnover rose to £256.7m from £246.7m. A final dividend of 3.4p is proposed, making 4.8p for the year against 4.5p last time.

STEELEY, the building materials group, has increased pretax profits for the six months to June 30 to £15.5m up from £8.6m. Turnover rose from £188.7m to £197.6m. The interim dividend is raised to 4.5p from 4p last time.

Acorn Computer Group, the Cambridge-based manufacturer of the BBC Microcomputer and the Electron, has turned in disappointing full-year profits of £10.8m against £8.6m on turnover more than doubled from £42.4m to £93.2m. The company is paying a final dividend of 1p. Tempus, page 21

Akroyd denies merger snags

By William Kay, City Editor

Directors of both Mercury Securities and Akroyd and Smithers denied yesterday that there were any hitches in their planned merger, involving also the stockbroker firms of Mullens & Co and Rowe and Pitman, despite persistent weakness in the shares of the two quoted companies in the deal.

Immediately before the news of the four-way merger last month Mercury shares were 485p. Yesterday they fell another 5p to 443p. In the same period, Akroyd shares have fallen from 515p to a 1984 low of 410p.

Mr David Scholey, the chairman of Mercury, is in Washington attending the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund. Mr Stephen Raven, a director of Akroyd, one of London's leading jobbing firms, said: "I think it is simply that our shares have ceased to be an interesting situation since the deal was announced. Working parties to study the details of the merger are due to begin work next week."

pressure on building societies' liquidity, leading to a round of investment rate rises. Some societies also raised their mortgage rates, but others like the Halifax, which have only postponed the decision are likely to be encouraged by the healthy inflows not to make an increase in the near future.

The improvement in receipts is attributed by societies to the withdrawal of the 28th National Savings issue which boosted national savings in August, at the expense of the societies. The British Telecom issue is likely to mean a fall in receipts in November of up to £400m, according to the Nationwide.

Pressure on mortgage rates eases

By Richard Thomson

Pressure on mortgage rates appears to be easing. Building society estimates show that the total inflow of funds during September will be £700m to £800m, the highest since February. This follows an unusually low inflow in August at £133m - the worst since November 1981 - which put

pressure on building societies' liquidity, leading to a round of investment rate rises. Some societies also raised their mortgage rates, but others like the Halifax, which have only postponed the decision are likely to be encouraged by the healthy inflows not to make an increase in the near future.

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Share swop for trust

The Anglo Scottish Investment Trust yesterday sent a document to shareholders outlining its plans to split the trust into three funds. Shareholders will be able to exchange each existing 25p share for one unit of the new unit trust or for one 25p share of either of the new specialised investment trusts to be created.

A shareholders' vote on the reorganization will take place on October 26. The Anglo Scottish share price closed at 154p yesterday, a discount of about 8 per cent to net asset value.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1121.2 down 0.9
High: 1121.8; low: 1116.9
FT Index: 870.0 up 6.6
FT All Share: 528.97 up 0.73
Barratons: 16.813
Deutsche USM Leaders Index: 102.5 down 0.88
New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average: (latest) 1,200.83 down 4.42
Tolyne: Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 10,604.93 up 63.13
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index: 1,010.23 up 15.41

CURRENCIES

STERLING
Index 76.5 down 0.2 (range 76.7-76.4)
Sterling 142 up 1.1
DM 3.0720 up 0.0495
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.2330
Dollar DM 3.0772

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rate 10½
Finance houses base rate 11½
Discount market loans week fixed 10½-10½
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 11½-11½
3 month DM 5½-5½
3 month FF 11½-11½
US rates:
Bank prime rate 13-12.75
Fed funds 10½
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period August 8 to September 4, 1984, inclusive: 10.80 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$345.10 pm \$345.00
close \$345.25-345.75 (\$279.80-280)
New York (latest): \$345.20
Kruggerand (per coin):
\$356.00-357.50 (\$288.50-289.50)
Sovereigns (new):
\$81-82 (\$65.75-66.50)
*Excludes VAT

Exhibition halls face overcapacity

By Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

Britain's £307m-a-year exhibitions industry has mastered a problem of cost, only to face another potential one: over capacity.

The threat also applies to conference centres. Most new halls can double for conferences or exhibitions. Since 1975, nearly 30 conference and exhibition centres have either been built or undergone refurbishing or expansion scheme - and at least 15 more are still in the pipeline.

The exhibition giants are Earls Court and Olympia - which last year accounted for 30 per cent of the £153m spent on trade and consumer exhibitions - and Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre, which had a 27 per cent share.

Two big new exhibition centres are due to open next year outside London: the Manchester Central Station development and a £36m Glasgow complex within easy reach of the city centre.

At Alexandra Palace, a temporary pavilion already takes exhibition. The main building, which is being reconstructed at a cost of £35m, is due to open in the autumn of 1987. Like many of the new centres, it is aimed especially at medium-sized exhibitions. Medium-sized and small exhibitions are now the main growth area.

Just opened is the Bourne-



month Internationale Centre, which offers both conference and exhibition space. The English Tourist Board, concerned that some schemes might become white elephants, has commissioned a study from Peat Marwick Mitchell, the consultants, on the prospects for the conference and exhibition industry between now and the end of the century. The state of new and refurbished halls is threatening

the older, out-of-date buildings. Spending on business tourism in Britain, mostly reflecting conferences and exhibition business, was up by a quarter last year at £1,250m.

Exhibitions, whose future had looked cloudy because costs to exhibitors had been soaring, are after cost-containment measures, advertising and promotional expenditure, according to the latest survey of exhibitions expenditure by the Incorporated Society of British Advertisers (Isba).

Expenditure on exhibitions organized by individual companies, such as with in-store and mobile exhibitions and product launches, last year rose 37 per cent on an annual comparison. Spending on trade and consumer exhibitions was up 16 per cent, a 9 per cent increase in real terms after netting out inflation. Spending on agricultural shows was up 11 per cent.

Mr Kenneth Miles, Isba's director, believes cost-containment offers the chance for exhibitors to take a bigger share of all promotional expenditure. The total advertising spending last year amounted to £4,000m.

Costs of space rental rose 8 per cent last year and those involved in stand construction by 5 per cent. Most printed media costs were up by more than this and televised was 12 per cent more expensive.

Beryl's just wild about flowers

Which could explain why, this past summer, Mobil's massive 500,000 tonne 204 metre tall platform was sporting a sunflower on her crown.

This bit of horticultural frippery wasn't merely the handiwork of homesick roustabouts trying to recreate their gardens 95 miles southeast of Shetland. There was a much more noble motive behind the care lavished on Beryl's cherished *genus belianthus*.

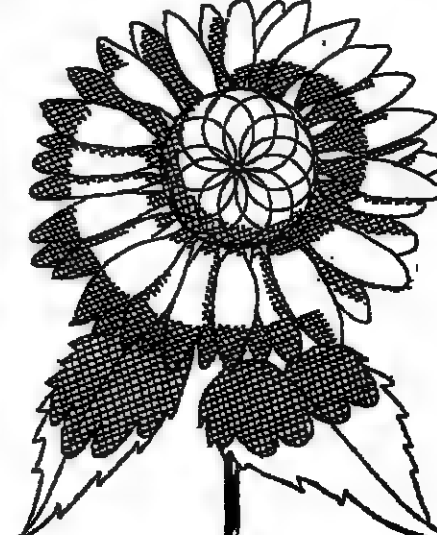
The exercise was part of a North Sea-wide charitable drive: a sponsored sunflower-growing competition with cash donated to the Royal Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children in proportion to inches of floral growth. In the Beryl field, the competition was run by the first and only charitable foundation in the North Sea.

Composed entirely of those who work on or in support of the Beryl sister platforms, the foundation has already made a substantial impact on the Aberdeen area and beyond. Among the beneficiaries of its largesse have been local hospitals, the handicapped, and children's homes. Sunflowers aside, funds have been raised through sponsored runs, cycle marathons, and even a chicken-eating contest.

Making money is the primary business of every offshore platform.

But on Beryl A and her newly-operational sister, Beryl B, raising money for worthy causes has taken a healthy second place in platform priorities.

Beryl may sport a jaunty flower on her crown. But she wears her heart on her sleeve.



Mobil Beryl B

Swire Pacific Limited

Consolidated results for the six months ended 30th June 1984 and 1984 interim dividends

Results: Swire Pacific Limited's attributable profit for the first half of 1984 was HK\$477.4 million, which represented an increase of 8.7% over that of the equivalent period in 1983. The unaudited consolidated results for the six months ended 30th June 1984 were:

	Six months ended 30th June	Year ended 31st December
	1984 HK\$M	1983 HK\$M
Turnover	5,708.3	4,523.7
Operating profit	819.3	806.1
Interest charges — net	6.4	145.2
Net operating profit	812.9	660.9
Share of profits less losses of associated companies	22.5	26.7
Profit before taxation	835.4	687.6
Taxation	158.9	102.3
Profit after taxation	681.5	585.3
Minority interests	204.1	150.2
Profit attributable to shareholders	477.4	435.1
Earnings per share:		
'A' shares	131.5c	121.2c
'B' shares	28.2c	24.2c

Interim dividends: The directors of Swire Pacific Limited have today declared interim dividends for 1984 of 39.0c per 'A' share and 7.8c per 'B' share.

	1984 Interim	1983 Interim	1983 Final	1983 Total
Dividends per share:				
'A' shares	39.0c	31.0c	73.0c	104.0c
'B' shares	7.8c	6.2c	14.8c	20.8c

The interim dividends are payable on 20th November 1984 to shareholders on the register at the close of business on 19th October 1984; the share registers will be closed from 8th October 1984 to 19th October 1984, both dates inclusive.

In accordance with Article 123(a) of the Company's Articles of Association, the directors have resolved that the interim dividends will be satisfied partly in the form of an issue of additional shares by way of scrip dividends and partly by minimum cash dividends of 1.0c per 'A' share and 0.2c per 'B' share, the minimum cash dividends being paid in order to ensure that the shares of the Company continue to be authorised investments for the purpose of the Trustee Ordinance of Hong Kong; but that shareholders will be given the option of receiving their interim dividends in cash in place of part or all of such scrip dividends. Full details of the scrip dividend procedures will be given in a circular which will accompany the complete interim report to be sent to shareholders on 1st October 1984.

Prospects: The results of the Swire Pacific Group for the second half of 1984 are expected to continue at satisfactory levels, and in particular Cathay Pacific Airways' profits for the full year should be significantly higher than those of 1983. The industries and trading divisions should continue to perform well. Conditions in the markets in which the property division operates are likely to continue to be difficult during the remainder of the year, although I believe we have seen the worst. Levels of activity in the offshore services division are expected to remain depressed in the short term. Nevertheless, despite higher than expected rates of interest in Hong Kong, in the absence of further material adverse changes in circumstances, I expect that Swire Pacific's profits for the whole of 1984 will be of the order of HK\$1.0 billion, and that total dividends for the year will amount to not less than 125.0c per 'A' share and 25.0c per 'B' share.

Hong Kong, 21st September 1984.

H.M.P. Miles

Chairman

Swire Pacific Limited
The Swire Group
Swire House, Hong Kong

ECONOMIC COMMENTARY

The dollar standard is doomed

By Tim Congdon

Interest rates are just a temporary prop against the dollar's inevitable decline as a store of value

The dollar is the world's reserve currency. Can it retain this position into the indefinite future? Or must it, like all its predecessors from the Byzantine solidus to the pound sterling, lose its special status?

It may seem strange to reflect on this question after four years in which the dollar has risen strongly against all other currencies, but the argument of this article will be that the dollar standard is doomed. Moreover, its demise is not a distant possibility, but an outcome to be expected with high probability in the next 10 to 20 years.

Amid all the ballyhoo about the supposed success of Reaganomics and the rediscovery of a confident American self-image, some important long-run trends seem to have been forgotten. Perhaps the most ominous of these for the dollar is shown by the fact that America's share of world manufacturing output and exports fell continuously from 1948 to 1980.

Since 1980 the share of output may have stabilised, but this is because the United States is now at the peak of a boom whereas most other countries have only begun to crawl out of the recession. Meanwhile America's share of world exports has continued to fall. In the next two or three years it is likely to drop more sharply as the effects of recent dollar overvaluation work themselves out.

These trends are well known. Why, then, have the foreign exchanges been so enthusiastic about the dollar? In part, the explanation may be that the second most widely held reserve

asset, the Deutsche mark, is representative of a group of nations even more visibly on the wane than the United States.

However, the most substantial reason is that the dollar has been boosted by favourable interest rate differentials. Super-high dollar interest rates began in October 1979 when the Federal Reserve changed its monetary control procedures and have continued, apart from brief intervals in the summer of 1980 and the winter of 1982/83, ever since.

The interest rate differentials have considerable pulling power. In recent months the yield on long-term Japanese government bonds has typically been about 7 per cent, compared with 13 per cent on United States Treasury securities. The 6 per cent gap gives investors worldwide a strong incentive to hold dollar assets.

Suppose, for example, that a Japanese insurance company is considering whether to commit funds to yen or dollar bonds with 15 years to maturity. If the dollar falls against the yen by 5 per cent a year over the entire period, the dollar bond will prove a superior investment because the interest rate gain is greater than the exchange rate loss.

Notice what this pattern of expectations implies for the dollar. The yen/dollar rate is now about 240. Dollar depreciation at 5 per cent a year would reduce the figure over 15 years to less than 120.

In other words, sophisticated investors are behaving with perfect consistency if they envisage a halving of the dollar's value against the yen and nevertheless prefer United States Treasury bonds to Japanese government paper. This conclusion may seem startling and paradoxical, but it is also logically irresistible.

Nevertheless, doubts about investor attitudes and behaviour are justified. The dollar is a reserve currency because it is thought to be a trustworthy store of value, an asset which will retain purchasing power in terms of real things. Can this

US share of world manufacturing value-added and exports

	Share of world manufacturing value-added	Share of world exports	Share of world exports of manufactures
1945	56.7	21.9	na
1953	55.3	18.9	na
1958	54.2	16.4	20.4
1963	52.6	14.9	17.3
1970	44.5	13.6	14.9
1975	21.5	12.2	13.9
1980	21.1	10.9	12.8

Sources: Industry in a changing world 5th edition (New York 1983). Details reprinted in an article in the June 1984 World Economy.

Note: The pre-1963 figures for manufacturing value are calculated from data in current prices, the post-1963 figures from data in constant prices.

belief be reconciled with a halving of the yen/dollar rate over 15 years?

The answer must be that it cannot. In a sensible world — and indeed in the real world in the long run — exchange rate changes reflect differences in inflation rates. In other words, a continuous 5 per cent a year fall in the yen/dollar exchange rate should be associated with an American inflation rate always 5 per cent above the Japanese.

Unless the Japanese government is prepared to have a

about the sustainability of the extremely odd structure of investor expectations which has driven the dollar to such heights. In addition, other considerations, more specifically economic in character, suggest that the dollar cannot preserve its reserve currency position.

The trouble with America's overseas payments imbalance is not so much that it is bad as that it is certain to worsen. The current account deficit this year will be about \$100 billion, more than twice the 1983 deficit of \$41.5 billion, which was itself a record for any country.

The figure of \$100 billion will be the result of a trade deficit of \$125 billion and an invisible surplus of \$25 billion. The surplus on invisibles is almost entirely attributable to investment income on overseas assets — the United States has accumulated in the past.

The current account deficit will widen for two reasons. First, as the United States becomes a debtor nation, the surplus on investment income will disappear and be replaced by a deficit. In 1985 the current deficit may be similar in size to the trade deficit in 1986 it will probably be larger.

Second, the trade deficit has not yet suffered the impact of the recent dollar surge. Economic relationships suggest that exchange rate changes affect export and import volume over a two to three-year timespan. So the phase of extreme dollar overvaluation in the summer of

1984 will damage the trade balance in 1986 and 1987.

In summary, it is reasonable to forecast United States current account deficits of between \$100 billion and \$150 billion every year from 1984 to 1987. The cumulative deficit in President Reagan's second term should be at least \$500 billion and could be more. When he finally stands down in 1989, the United States will have an external debt higher than its exports and a multiple of the worst figure in Latin America.

Moreover, without big policy changes in the United States there can be no confidence that the current account deficit will have been eliminated by the end of Reagan's second term. The ultimate cause of the payments imbalance is the budget deficit. If the budget deficit remains at 5 per cent or more of gross national product, the trade gap will persist.

Whether Reagan intends to do anything about the budget deficit is, at this stage, not altogether clear. What is clear is that the 1984 boom has given the tax-cutting supply-siders a new determination and respectability in public debate. Even Professor Milton Friedman has stated in a recent letter to *The Wall Street Journal* that he does "not regard the deficit as a 'tax issue' and that he 'strongly opposes a tax increase'."

American public opinion is not prepared for a period of fiscal austerity. But without early and vigorous action to curb the budget deficit, the United States will incur large external debts, throughout Reagan's second term and beyond.

The dollar may have another burst of appreciation on Reagan's reelection, although there is little sense of logic in the foreign exchanges' celebration of perhaps the most financially irresponsible administration in American peacetime history. But, whatever the gyrations in the next few months, the dollar is steadily being discredited from a reserve currency role.

The author is economics partner at Stockbrokers L. Messel & Co.

The dollar's rise in 1984 will hit US trade figures in 1986 and 1987

falling price level (which seems unlikely), the American inflation rate must be 5 per cent or more. That may not sound too bad after the mishaps of recent years, but it is not compatible with the dollar being a good store of value.

None of the reserve currencies of the past have depreciated systematically at this rate against real things. If the dollar is to fall steadily in value against both real things and the yen, it will lose the respect necessary for reserve currency status. The yen will be favoured instead along with other assets known for their reliability as hedges against inflation.

There have to be worries

Telefusion to merge shops with Trident

By Jonathan Clark

Telefusion, the electrical company, is to amalgamate its retail shops and Trident discount stores into one 220-strong chain under the new name of Connect in an attempt to reposition the group in the retail market.

The move will reduce overheads by combining buying power and allow a much higher level of retail sales through the Telefusion retail shops.

Mr Stuart Hickey, the managing director, said yesterday that the emphasis on retailing would increase sales by 50 per cent within 12 months to take the

company's market share from about 2 per cent to 3 per cent.

He emphasised, however, that Telefusion was not abandoning the rental market where it has an estimated share of 2.5 per cent.

The new name's launch is likely to cost between £4m and £5m.

Telefusion wants to open a further 50 stores, mainly in the South-East at a cost of about £50,000 each.

Last year, Telefusion's profits fell from £4.3m to £2.4m mainly because of heavy investment in new colour televisions.

Valin Pollen acquisition

By Alison Eadie

Valin Pollen, the public relations agency that came to the Unlisted Securities Market so successfully in January, has made its first acquisition.

It is buying McAvoy Wreford & Associates, another public affairs consultancy, for an initial cash payment of £222,000. The total sum depends on McAvoy's performance in 1985 and 1986, but should be between £500,000 and £1m.

Valin Pollen is on course for taxable profits of at least £560,000 in the year to September 1984 against a forecast of £425,000 made at the time of the USM launch. No more purchases are imminent, but Valin Pollen has its sights set on international expansion both in Europe and the US.

The shares closed unchanged at 296p compared with a placing price of 110p.

Shepperton

In yesterday's edition we said that Mills and Allen owned Shepperton Film Studios. Mills and Allen sold Shepperton to Lee Electric Lighting last month.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	10 1/2 %
Adam & Company	10 1/2 %
Barclays	10 1/2 %
BCCI	10 1/2 %
Citibank Savings	12 %
Consolidated Creds	10 1/2 %
Continental Trust	10 1/2 %
C. Hoare & Co	10 1/2 %
Lloyds Bank	10 1/2 %
Midland Bank	10 1/2 %
Net Westminster	10 1/2 %
TSB	10 1/2 %
Williams & Glyn's	10 1/2 %
Citibank NA	10 1/2 %

* Mortgage Base Rate.
* 7 day deposits on sums of under £10,000, 7.4%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 8%; £50,000 and over, 8 1/2%.

CENTENARY
Dalgely plc

Preliminary Results for the year to June 30th 1984

A RECORD YEAR

- Turnover up 30% to £3,701 million
- Profits before tax up 28% to £67 million
- Earnings per share increased 13% to 50.3p
- Final Dividend increased to 13p, making 24p for the year

United Kingdom profits again moved ahead, principally as a result of improved operating efficiency and USA profits again increased. In Canada, profits were well above last year and in Australia the merger which created Dalgely Farmers led to a substantial increase in profits.

The Directors are confident of another good year.

Dalgely PLC, 19 Hanover Square, London W1R 9DA.

N E I

Northern Engineering Industries plc

Highlights Half year to June 30	1984 £m	1983 £m
Turnover	428	413
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	21.2	20.1
Taxation	8.5	6.0
Profit after taxation and minority interests	10.8	12.3
Extraordinary items	4.6	2.0
Earnings per ordinary share — net basis	4.83p	5.53p

On target for profits growth in 1984

As I advised at our Annual General Meeting in May, and in view of the continued absence of any real sign of improved activity in the principal markets which we serve, we have pressed ahead with a far reaching, although costly programme of rationalisation and restructuring within the Group to enhance further our competitiveness.

The half year expenditure related to this policy is £4.6 million; we anticipate that the whole of these restructuring programmes will be largely complete by the end of 1984 and their full cost, which will be charged in the 1984 accounts as extraordinary, will be some £25 million.

The traditional strength of our balance sheet is more than adequate to absorb these charges and the Board is convinced that the benefits of these rationalisation and restructuring policies will more than compensate in the immediate and longer term for the very substantial expenditure incurred.

Profit: After charging £1.7m redundancy costs and with adverse currency movements reducing profit by nearly £1m profit on ordinary activities before taxation is still 5 per cent higher at £21.2m against £20.1m.

Productivity: The Group has again achieved a significant improvement in productivity of 8 per cent over the comparable period.

Orders: The order intake is satisfactory at the halfway stage and net orders in hand at June 30 stand at £1,226 million.

Sir Duncan McDonald, CBE, Chairman

MARK H. McCORMACK

'What They Don't Teach You At Harvard Business School'

Mark McCormack's IMG (International Management Group) is a multi-million-dollar corporation operating worldwide throughout business and marketing.

Here, at last, he reveals the secrets of his success — sharing the business techniques and wisdom gleaned from twenty-five years of experience.

"Incisive, intelligent and witty. Like the author himself, it is a sure winner." *Rupert Murdoch*

£7.95

Sunlight Service Group

INTERIM REPORT

	Half Year 1984	Half Year 1983
Turnover	25,943	23,992
Profit before taxation	1,292	1,172
Taxation	(488)	(328)
Profit after taxation	804	844
Minority interest	—	5
Extraordinary items	886	860
Preference dividend	(320)	(791)
Ordinary dividend	(307)	(799)
	71	822
EARNINGS PER ORDINARY SHARE — DIVIDEND PER ORDINARY SHARE	5.88p	6.50p
	1.35p	1.20p

NOTE: Extraordinary items comprise the expenses arising from a programme of major plant reconstruction and the terminal losses on closure of companies.

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT: The unaudited net profit before taxation for the six months to 30th June 1984 amounted to £1,292,000 compared to £1,172,000 in the corresponding period last year.

As forecast at the time of the acquisition of Sunlight Service Limited, your Board's forecast to pay an interim dividend of 13.8p (1.38 pence net per share) as against 12.0p (1.2 pence net per share) in 1983.

Our business activities, supplemented by benefits from our recent acquisitions, under round overall progress in the period. Our newly acquired businesses, with the exception of Sunlight, all made positive contributions to earnings. In the case of St. George's, the results for the period and the substantial progress made integrating our acquisitions give your Board the confidence to believe that the outcome for the year as a whole will be satisfactory.

Index advances as investors move for selective targets

It is widely believed that Blackwood may now be emerging from the depths of despair which at one time threatened to engulf it. Its shares have been as low as 8p this year. Only last year they touched 30 1/2 p and even then were stretched to

S & W Berisford, the commodity grader, bidder for Ranks Hovis McDougal, is expanding its modest drinks side into a wash with rumours that it is a Capital Wine and Travers, an investment and that it is to splash out approximately \$100 million on spirits concern, Kilsner (Distillers).

group often suggested as a possible
gall, could be on the verge of
2. The wine and spirit trade is
about to buy the 50 per cent of
porter, it does not already own,
reaching £1.5m to buy a cut price
Berisford, which has rejected the
sterdy.

RECENT ISSUES	
Alphameric 5p Ord (95a)	118
Applied Holograms 5p Ord (180a)	120
Boesley Group 25p Ord (85a)	112
Brita Arrow 25p Ord (75a)	91
Britanair Security 10p Ord (62.5a)	81
Brush Radio 10p Ord (88a)	76
Clogst Gold 10p Ord (30a)	23
Compost Hides 5p Ord (=)	132
DDT Group 5p Ord (135a)	193
Enterprise Oil 25p Ord (185a)	199
Entertainment Prod 5p Ord (58a)	48
Emet 10p Ord (95)	115
Extract Wool 20p Ord (105a)	140

offering has been made through an underwriting syndicate lead-managed by Morgan Grenfell (books) - and Societe Generale. ACCOR is engaged in the ownership and management of hotels and the provision of restaurant services to companies, institutional clients and the public. The company is the largest hotel group in France and the ninth largest hotel group in the

Retrenchment and consolidation of market share is the order of the day. There will not be too much by way of profits growth this year. The shares closed down, 8p to 155p to

Electron, despite its early production delays, now over 90,000 further advances in Britain look assured. Both models have order books of more than 100,000 and the company hopes to benefit from its new ABC business computer this year. Firm plans have yet to be laid, but a move to a full

The group structure is also much tidier than before. It can only be a matter of time before it moves to a divisional administration of its operations. The

However, while Steetley has clear profits potential, there must still be some doubt that this will be matched by a continuing climb in the share price.

LONDON COMMODITY PRICES	
Rubber in C's per tonnes Coffee, 1000g Sugar in c/mt per metric tonne US-10 in US \$ per metric tonne	
RUBBER	
Nov	630-10
Dec	650-10
Jan	650-11
Feb	670-10
Mar	680-10
Apr	700-08
May	710-08
Jun	720-08
Oct/Dec	750-08
Jan/May	760-08
Apr/Jun	720-08
SUGAR	
Nov	112.80-113.00
Dec	120.00-120.40
Jan	120.00-120.40
Feb	120.00-120.40
Mar	120.00-120.40
Apr	120.00-120.40
May	120.00-120.40
Jun	120.00-120.40
COCA	
Nov	2275-76
Dec	2275-76
Jan	2275-76
Feb	2275-76
Mar	2275-76
Apr	2275-76
May	2275-76
Jun	2275-76
COFFEE	
Nov	2390-2392
Dec	2390-2392
Jan	2390-2392
Feb	2390-2392
Mar	2390-2392
Apr	2390-2392
May	2390-2392
Jun	2390-2392

[illegible]

Price	COT			P/E	1964		Price	COT			P/E
	Chg	%	Ytd		High	Low		Company	Chg	%	
17 1/2	•	•	•	10	24	24	10	•	•	•	12
18 1/2	•	•	•	11	25	25	11	•	•	•	13
19 1/2	•	•	•	12	26	26	12	•	•	•	14
20 1/2	•	•	•	13	27	27	13	•	•	•	15
21 1/2	•	•	•	14	28	28	14	•	•	•	16
22 1/2	•	•	•	15	29	29	15	•	•	•	17
23 1/2	•	•	•	16	30	30	16	•	•	•	18
24 1/2	•	•	•	17	31	31	17	•	•	•	19
25 1/2	•	•	•	18	32	32	18	•	•	•	20
26 1/2	•	•	•	19	33	33	19	•	•	•	21
27 1/2	•	•	•	20	34	34	20	•	•	•	22
28 1/2	•	•	•	21	35	35	21	•	•	•	23
29 1/2	•	•	•	22	36	36	22	•	•	•	24
30 1/2	•	•	•	23	37	37	23	•	•	•	25
31 1/2	•	•	•	24	38	38	24	•	•	•	26
32 1/2	•	•	•	25	39	39	25	•	•	•	27
33 1/2	•	•	•	26	40	40	26	•	•	•	28
34 1/2	•	•	•	27	41	41	27	•	•	•	29
35 1/2	•	•	•	28	42	42	28	•	•	•	30
36 1/2	•	•	•	29	43	43	29	•	•	•	31
37 1/2	•	•	•	30	44	44	30	•	•	•	32
38 1/2	•	•	•	31	45	45	31	•	•	•	33
39 1/2	•	•	•	32	46	46	32	•	•	•	34
40 1/2	•	•	•	33	47	47	33	•	•	•	35
41 1/2	•	•	•	34	48	48	34	•	•	•	36
42 1/2	•	•	•	35	49	49	35	•	•	•	37
43 1/2	•	•	•	36	50	50	36	•	•	•	38
44 1/2	•	•	•	37	51	51	37	•	•	•	39
45 1/2	•	•	•	38	52	52	38	•	•	•	40
46 1/2	•	•	•	39	53	53	39	•	•	•	41
47 1/2	•	•	•	40	54	54	40	•	•	•	42
48 1/2	•	•	•	41	55	55	41	•	•	•	43
49 1/2	•	•	•	42	56	56	42	•	•	•	44
50 1/2	•	•	•	43	57	57	43	•	•	•	45
51 1/2	•	•	•	44	58	58	44	•	•	•	46
52 1/2	•	•	•	45	59	59	45	•	•	•	47
53 1/2	•	•	•	46	60	60	46	•	•	•	48
54 1/2	•	•	•	47	61	61	47	•	•	•	49
55 1/2	•	•	•	48	62	62	48	•	•	•</	

Retrenchment and consolidation of market share is the order of the day. There will not be too much by way of profits growth this year. The shares closed down, 8p to 155p to

When Acorn Computer Group, the manufacturer of the best-selling BBC micro, joined the Unlisted Securities Market as

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Mar	2390-2392
Apr	2390-2392
May	2390-2392
Jun	2390-2392

[illegible]

The stock market headed lower in early trading, settling on Wall Street.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average, which gained \$3.22 to 1,205.06 on Monday, slipped to 1,201.84 on Tuesday.

The New York Stock Exchange index was down 0.22 to 95.16, and the price of an average share was down eight cents. Declines led advances.

First-hour volume amounted to about 20,000,000 shares compared with 49,450,000 in the same period on Monday.

IBM's stock was down 1/8 to 19 1/2. IBM was at 12 1/2 to 13 1/4. MGM Grand stock was up 1/8 to 1 1/4 and

Tyco Laboratories was ahead 1/8 to 37 1/2.

Wall Street is keeping a vigil for the dollar which has started the slide after a surge last week on news of a high level of economic slowing and interest rates falling, a decline is inevitable analysts said. But the "greenback" remained firm in early trading.

It held its ground even though the West German central bank sold anywhere between \$350m and \$400m to drive it down.

So far, the US has not entered the fray, contending that the marketplace would take care of problems.

- ★ Pre-tax profit up by £1.35m to £2.2m
- ★ Interim dividend up by 31% to 1.96p
- ★ Earnings per share up by 112% to 2.38p
- ★ Balance sheet substantially strengthened

The unaudited consolidated results for the 28 weeks ended 11 August 1984 are as follows:	28 weeks ended 11 August 1984 £000	28 weeks ended 13 August 1983 £000	52 weeks ended 28 January 1984 £000
--	--	--	---

Turnover excluding VAT	55,114	54,766	111,029
Profit of the Company and its subsidiaries	2,068	406	4,607
Share of profit of associated companies	130	439	1,340
Profit before taxation	2,198	845	5,947
Taxation – estimated	(921)	(262)	(1,153)
	1,277	583	4,794
Minority interests	(38)	(30)	(87)
	1,239	553	4,707
Extraordinary items	53	—	351
Profit after taxation, minority interests and extraordinary items	1,292	553	5,058
Dividends: Preference	8	8	16
Ordinary	1,041	726	1,706
	1,049	734	1,722
	243	(181)	3,336
Exchange differences	8	(65)	(62)
Balance transferred to (from) reserves	251	(246)	3,274
Earnings per Ordinary share	2.38p	1.12p	9.62p

Notes:

1. Concord European Retail BV was an associated company until 27 March 1984 when the 50 per cent. interests in this share capital not previously owned was acquired and it became a wholly owned subsidiary to profits and losses of its subsidiaries have consequently been included in the profit of the Company and its subsidiaries from that date.

2. The Company and its subsidiaries have disposed of the following assets in properties in the United Kingdom: profit arising from sale and leaseback arrangements, amounting to £2616,000 (28 weeks ended 13 August 1982) £2,227,000 and £2,000,000 (29 January 1984) £1,857,000.

3. The Company and its subsidiaries for the 28 weeks ended 13 August 1982 and the 52 weeks ended 29 January 1984 were arrived at after deduction of losses of subsidiaries disposed of prior to the latter date of £1,000,000 and £570,000 respectively.

4. A transfer dividend for the year ending 26 January 1985 of 156p (1984 145p) per Ordinary share will be paid on 21 November 1984 to shareholders on the register on 11 October 1984.

**SALISBURYS COLLINGWOOD ALLENS
KINGSBURY M. MERCADO EUROCAMP
BIBA + PARISCOP DAUB GmbH**

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

OCTOPUS PUBLISHERS: Half-year to June 30. Pretax profit £3.41m (£2.34m). Turnover £17.84m (£13.03m). Interim dividend, 3.6p (3p). The board reports that during the half-year liquidity was strong and enabled Octopus to achieve an improved income from the investment of surplus funds in a spread of currencies. The pattern of the group's trading requires a higher level of working capital in the second six months of the year. The board remains confident of a successful outcome to this year.

FINLAY PACKAGING: Half-year to June 30. Turnover £4.61m (£5.07m). Pretax profit £529,000 (£609,000). Interim dividend 0.75p (same). The board expects to maintain the dividend level of 1983-84.

STOCKLEY: Period November 7, 1983, to May 31, 1984. Loss before and after tax, £74,000. No dividend. As a result of property disposals the group has repaid all its bank borrowings and has cash resources available for further acquisitions. The board is actively considering a number of proposals to acquire properties for investment, refurbishment and development.

DENDON: Half-year to June 30. Figures in 000. Turnover 4,780 (3,120). Pretax profit 612 (357). Tax (nil). Earnings per ordinary share 4.7p (2.9p).

HATMOUGHS (HOLDINGS): Half-year to June 30. Interim dividend 1.7p on increased capital (1.7 last time). Figures in 000. Turnover 12,197 (10,203).

Pretax operating profit 782 (748). Tax 141 (75). EPS (net basis) 7.11p (7.47p restated). The directors believe that the final six months of the year, traditionally the stronger of the two halves, will show further progress.

CUSSINS PROPERTY GROUP: Half-year to June 30. Figures in 000. Turnover 2,525 (3,548). Pretax profit 824 (705). Tax 240 (316). EPS 10.24p (7.08p). The chairman, Mr P. I. Cussins, looks forward with confidence to a satisfactory outcome to activities for the year. Interim dividend 2.4p (2.2p).

LORIN ELECTRONICS: Half-year to June 30. Figures in 000. Turnover 2,020 (1,320). Pretax profit 393 (287). Tax 150 (114). EPS 4.67p (3.46p). Interim dividend 0.5p (nil). Lorin is beginning to obtain advantages from the new Litchfield factory acquired in February. This has allowed the concentration of connector production at Billingham and the installation of moulding machines at Litchfield.

WILLIAM MORRIS FINE ARTS: Half-year to June 30. Turnover £2.5m. Pretax profit £346,000. The chairman Mr Trevor Barker views the future with optimism and feels that the company is comfortably on the target made at time of the flotation on the USM. Traditionally, the first six months in both businesses is the

weaker half, with higher profit levels coming in the latter part of the year.

PLANET GROUP: Six months to June 30. Interim 1p (same). Figures in 000. Turnover 21,959 (20,542). Operating profit 1,010 (1,478) being UK 200 (17). USA 1,108 (1,314) and Europe (excluding UK) 288 (profit 147). Pretax profit 508 (1,251) after exceptional charges - Europe 291 (nil) and interest 211 (227). Tax 605 (759). Extraordinary dividend 3 (nil). Earnings per share 1p (earnings 3.1p). Shares 55 down 2.

PANTHERELLA: Six months to June 30. Interim 1.3p as forecast. Figures in 000. Turnover 1,604 (1,471). Pretax profit 232 (219). Tax 97 (100). Extraordinary dividend 3 (nil). Earnings per share 3.4p (3p adjusted). Shares 104 up 1.

UNITED FRIENDLY INSURANCE: Six months to June 30. Interim 4.6p (4p). Figures in £m. Premium income: Industrial branch 44.27 (41.43). Ordinary 7.61 (7.21). General 23.87 (22.91). New life business: Industrial branch 9.75 (8.97). New sums assured 138.34 (136.25). Ordinary: new sums assured 101.52 (114.9). Shares 288p up 10p.

METALRAX GROUP: Six months to June 30. Interim 0.67p (0.609p equiv) (figures in 000). Turnover 14,043 (11,561). Group pretax profit 1,304 (723). Tax 603 (376). Earnings per share 2.42p (1.19p). Shares 55 up 3.

APPOINTMENTS

Eurobond head trader for Samuel Montagu

Samuel Montagu & Co. Mr Alan Reid becomes head trader of Eurobonds from October 1. He will also be involved with the company's other Eurobond activities.

Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy: Mr Maurice Stonehouse, director general has been elected president.

Mr Philip Sellers, finance director of the Post Office, will be vice-president.

British Metallurgical Plant Constructors' Association: Mr R. Exley, chief executive, Davy McKee (Minerals and Metals) UK, has been elected chairman.

Mr A. P. Smith, managing director, Otto-Simon Carves, as vice-chairman.

Albany Life Assurance Company: The following appointments have been made in the broker division: Mr Malcolm Kerr, who has headed the division since 1982, has been made executive director.

Mr Roderic Churchill, regional director for London and the South-East; Mr Rob Roberts is appointed regional director for the North, Midlands and West; Mr Glyn Walker takes over from Mr Churchill as manager of the London City branch; Mr Alex Stokes has rejoined Albany as manager of the Birmingham branch.

Mr Christopher Bland has become chairman on the retirement of Mr Jeremy Potter. Mr Potter remains a non-executive director.

Messrs Roger Houghton, Chris Gill and Charles Willis have been appointed to the group board.

Mr Nick Webb will be joining the board on October 1.

Scottish Eastern Investment Trust: Mr C. Michael Bell becomes a director of the company from October 1.

Phillips Research Laboratories: Mr K. L. Fuller has been named director to succeed Mr N. E. Goddard who is retiring on December 31.

Christy: Mr Terry Cox has been made company secretary and also financial director of Christy & Norris.

Smith Kline & French Research: Mr Timothy J. Rink has been made vice-president (research).

YACHTING

Limited changes decided on blueprint policy

From a Special Correspondent, Porto Cervo

On the eve of the world 12-metre class championship here, the committee have decided that the certificates of all yachts would no longer be confidential but should be made available to opposing syndicates.

This is the second time that the association have changed their policy on this subject within a year, and has probably been brought about by the controversy over the unconventional Australia 11 keel during the America's Cup and the multiple certificates held by Liberty.

Most of the voters agree, however, that the confidentiality of the yacht's detailed measurements should be maintained and that all boats should be issued with rating certificates for submission to race committees when entering for regattas. All but one of the 15 yachts holding valid rating certificates were represented.

The association also decided that the rule which bans the display of sponsors' names and insignia on boats and sails should remain in order to avoid a conflict of interest between the sponsors and organizers.

A proposal for the 1985 world championship to be held in Newport, Rhode Island, was

objected to but there are plans for a few match racing events to be held there in two identical 12-metre yachts to be built by the Sail Newport organizations.

The world event at Perth in 1986 will be predominantly fleet racing, unlike the present match racing system, as in the America's Cup.

France will invest about \$11m (100 million francs) for two different boats run by different sporting and technical groups in an effort to win the America's Cup from Australia in 1986-87. Jean Guivanny, president of the French America's Cup committee, said yesterday.

Guivanny, who is president Francois Mitterrand's Chief of Staff, said that skipper Marc Pajot would be in overall charge of the French challenge in Perth.

He said the human and technical resources devoted to the French challenge would be far above those of the previous unsuccessful challenges.

The committee are looking for the first 10 million francs (\$1.1m) to come from ministerial funds and 20 million from nationalized industries. The remainder may be public or private funds, Guivanny said.

MOTOR RACING

Goodyear team up with the champions

Less than 24 hours after Michelin announced their withdrawal from grand prix racing, Goodyear have confirmed that they have signed a tyre contract with McLaren, the team which has dominated this year's world championship (John Blunsden writes).

Michelin had given their five contracted teams - Brabham, McLaren, Renault, Telesman and Ligier - prior warning of their decision, and the new McLaren contract had already been signed with Goodyear when Michelin announced on Monday that they would be pulling out at the end of this season.

Brabham had already announced earlier this month a new three-year agreement for tyres with Pirelli. Of the three remaining Michelin-equipped teams, Renault must be the major prize for either Goodyear or Pirelli in view of the French company's position in the passenger-car market.

Frazer-Nash and a link in the chain-gang

By John Blunsden

Bristol Cars (now owned by Anthony Crook) and later their handling of DKW and Auto-Union and their appointment as Porsche's sole concessionaire in the UK.

Th. Aldington's company, people like Dick Seaman and B. Sira in the 1930s, while Stirling Moss and Mike Hawthorn were among many who found fame in the hands of the cars.

Today the factory where they were built is a Porsche retail centre (the import company has moved to Reading) but the AFN "chain" atmosphere lingers on and those cars which inspired the original "chain-gang" are still a familiar sight there.

Jenkins' diligent research has provided an important addition to motor sport history and, perhaps, the most revealing of all, it reminds us that even today motor racing is not all about big business, television coverage, sponsored motor homes and telephone numbers.

For many, such as the Aldingtons, it is simply a way of life.

The enthusiasm of three brothers for sports cars and motor sports which led to the manufacture of the Frazer-Nash car, and ultimately to the importation of Porsche into the United Kingdom, is the central theme of a fascinating book published this week, *From Chain-Drive to Turbocharged: The AFN Story* (Patrick Stephens Ltd, £19.95). Dennis Jenkins recalls the triumphs over intrigue and disaster as W. H. H. J. and D. A. Aldington established themselves in the 1930s as the manufacturers of a unique type of sports car which, more than a quarter of a century after the last Frazer-Nash was built in the West London suburbs of Isleworth, still commands a passionate following in motor-sport circles.

Versatility and adaptability seemed to be the Aldingtons' strong cards as they faced adversity, hence their pre-war decision to import BMW cars and motorcycles as well as light aircraft, the association after the war with the formation of

CRICKET

Australians embark on intensive schedule

Australia leave today for a short tour of India which signals the start of one of their most intensive international schedules.

The Australians will play a minimum of 19 one-day games in their 1984-85 programme, plus a five-Test series at home by West Indies.

Kim Hughes' touring team face six limited-over games in India, starting on Friday, and after the Tests against Clive Lloyd's West Indies, they take part in the World Series Cup and then a tournament to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the state of Victoria.

Australia play 10 qualifying games in the cup competition, which also involves West Indies and Sri Lanka and culminates in a best-of-three final.

The Victoria tournament brings together the seven Test-playing countries in two groups.

One cloud on the horizon is an industrial dispute which threatens the use of the newly installed floodlights at the Melbourne cricket ground (MCG), the venue for some of the games in the Victoria tournament, which starts on February 17.

Australia's trip to India provides a chance for Murray Bennett, the only untested member, to establish his place. The left-arm spinner was the twelfth man for the Fourth Test of Australia's 1983-84 home series against Pakistan, but was overlooked in favour of the New South Wales colleague, Greg Matthews, for the subsequent tour of the Caribbean.

Walker and Whithell were in the Victoria team, but were not selected for their behaviour during the British Isles green-test championships.

Bale was an obvious candidate for this week's Derby Cup against Yorkshire at Eastbourne, but after his conduct in New York he was not considered. In addition, he has been fined about £200 for withdrawing from the tour.

Walker and Whithell were in the Victoria team, but were not selected for their behaviour during the British Isles green-test championships.

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TENNIS

Players get touch of discipline

By Rex Bellamy

Tennis Correspondent

British national team manager, Paul Hargrave, has disciplined three young players for misconduct on court. They are Stuart Ball, aged 20, Michael Walker, 18, and Richard Whithell, 17. Ball walked off court when losing a match during the qualifying competition for the United States Championships.

Walker and Whithell have been penalised for their behaviour during the British Isles green-test championships.

Bale was an obvious candidate for this week's Derby Cup against Yorkshire at Eastbourne, but after his conduct in New York he was not considered. In addition, he has been fined about £200 for withdrawing from the tour.

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1. *Journal of Management Studies*, 1997, 34, 1, 1-14.

La crème de la crème

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Tupperware, an internationally well-known and expanding Direct Selling Company, has the following exciting opportunities for staff in their modern, air-conditioned U.K. head office, two minutes' walk from the Metropolitan Line Station at Harrow On The Hill.

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If you are interested in any of the vacancies and would like to join our young and friendly team, please write, enclosing your c.v. and quoting the relevant reference to:

Ian Laurie, Sales Administration Director
The Tupperware Company
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If you are in your mid-twenties with a good educational background, including 'O' level maths, and with a flair for figure work, particularly in relation to the production and monitoring of budget forecasts, you could be the person for the job! First class typing skills are required. In addition, you will be assisting in the smooth running of our busy office which involves meeting suppliers of office equipment, therefore a smart appearance and a lively and friendly personality is an important requirement for this position. If you are interested in this vacancy, please apply to the above address quoting reference no. SAS/T/26.9.84.

We have a super opportunity for a book-keeper in our Centralised Accounting Department. You will be involved in auditing, preparing computer input journals and completing monthly profit and loss accounts for our distributors. You should be in your early-mid-twenties with a good general education, preferably to 'A' Level and with sound book-keeping experience, at least to trial balance. Typing skills would be advantageous. There is a great deal of contact with our Distributors and the successful applicant will probably be smart and articulate with a pleasant and lively personality together with good telephone manner, as well as being well-disciplined and able to work on own initiative. If you would like to hear more about working in this lively Department then please apply to the above address quoting reference number DFS/T/26.9.84.

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This is an ideal career opportunity for someone who has basic book-keeping experience together with a good general education including 'O' level maths and English. Duties include processing and coding of purchase invoices, monitoring marketing costs and preparing month end accounts. You will be involved in co-ordinating the various administrative functions of the Sales Administration Department and should therefore be capable of working on your own initiative and communicating effectively with people at all levels. If you are in your mid-twenties, of smart appearance and with a friendly personality, please apply to the above address quoting reference number AAT/T/26.9.84.

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ADMIN ASSISTANT to £9,000
Excellent opportunity, with prestige Multi-national, for the energetic Administrator with experience of handling expensive clients. A great sense of humour & fluent French welcomed - at least, don't use ambiguous intonation!

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NO SHORTHAND needed for this varied role, where Admin & liaison form a large part of the brief. Fast accurate typing & a flair for organisation are, however, essential. Excellent conditions in a prestige setting.

If you are interested in any of the above positions, please contact any of our branches throughout Central London or call in or phone one of the branches below:

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131/133 Cannon Street, E.C4. Tel 01-426 8315.

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Director Fund-raising
Help the Aged

£7,500

Being PA/Secretary to the Director of Fund-raising of a major charity is no ordinary job, which is why our Director is looking for a rather special person. He needs someone to provide a full secretarial service and assist him in all aspects of his work. Ensuring the smooth running of the Fund-raising Division's busy office and dealing with a variety of people, often at a very senior level is just part of the job.

If you feel you have the necessary professional approach acquired through at least four years experience, have excellent secretarial skills (audio and shorthand), a good sense of humour and want a challenging job working for a worthwhile cause, send a full CV to Maureen McCarthy, Help the Aged, St James's Walk, London EC1R 0BE.

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PA for the senior partner of this up-market major international company. Lots of admin, client contact and daily deadlines. 90/50. Age: 22/30.

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Unique opportunity for young PA to work at the top of this multinational company. Tremendous responsibility and challenge. 'A's and immaculate presentation essential. 100/90. Early 20's.

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to MD and Director of Finance

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We have a vacancy for a Secretary to our MD and Director of Finance. This demands a high standard of audio secretarial skills. It will attract someone who can bring their own job and who has the experience and personal qualities to communicate at a senior level in a professional although informal environment. Benefits include 75p/day LV's, interest free Season Ticket Loan and Flexibank. Please contact Sheila Warren, F.M. Insurance Co Ltd, Southside, 105 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6GT. Tel: 01-428 7799.

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The successful applicant will be an experienced, capable assistant, working as part of a team on the Wordplex 80-4 Cluster. The duties will also include working with senior design co-ordinators involved in various major store refurbishments, processing reports and standard specifications etc.

The salary is negotiable and attractive. Please write with full c.v. and daytime telephone number to:

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Stewart McCall Associates PLC
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If you are outstanding we will even create a new area for you in any other part of the UK. We don't care what your experience is. What matters is that you possess the exceptional qualities to fulfil a very demanding sales role and to manage/develop our business. We will give you full training for a new career, a competitive salary which is not commission based and a company car.

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to Group Chief Executive
(IN E. LONDON)

We are currently seeking an experienced Senior Secretary for the newly-appointed Group Chief Executive, located at our Edmonton Head Office. Applicants should possess extensive secretarial and organisational skills, gained at a senior level in a substantial Company. Equally important are a mature, flexible approach and the tact and discretion to deal effectively with people at all levels. The successful candidate should be accustomed to acting on their own initiative. Whilst shorthand ability is essential, word processor training will be provided as necessary. Preferred age range 28-35 years.

An attractive salary reflecting the importance attached to this new appointment will be offered, together with the usual benefits expected of a large organisation.

Please write briefly, in strict confidence, outlining experience, qualifications, age and current earnings to: Personnel Officer, M. K. ELECTRIC LTD., Shrubbery Road, Edmonton, London, N9 0PB.



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A rapidly expanding US investment bank is ECI seeks an ASSISTANT (Graduate preferred) for their Syndications Dept. You should be confident, quick thinking and energetic with banking experience, preferably in Syndications or Eurobonds. Initially there will be some secretarial work, should not be necessary, but there are excellent chances to progress quickly. Age 23-30.

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The Advertising and P.R. Director of this friendly Co. would like a personable Sec/PA with good shorthand and typing to get involved in all aspects of his business, including arranging PR functions, dealing with clients etc. Media exp. helpful but not essential. We also have lots of other very interesting vacancies in the media world and would like to hear from good secretaries with or without shorthand. Please telephone Barnett Personnel 01-629 7838/8867.

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If you are a Secretary with excellent skills and can use an IBM Displaywriter or a 320, we have many highly paid permanent and temporary vacancies in the City and West End.

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A US brokerage firm with offices in London and New York is seeking a secretary to work for the London office Managing Director and the Sales/Research team. The applicant should have well developed organisational and word processing skills (WANG), possess a bright and positive personality and enjoy working in a small and informal office. A salary of £8,000 pa plus PPP is offered and participation in the company's bonus programme. Please write with cv to:

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Salary scale: £4,728 - £8,401 + £1,250 London Weighting pa. 5 weeks leave, subsidised dining room. Write to the Personnel Officer, NCVO, 28 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3HU for further details and application form. Closing date for completed applications: 22 October 1984. NCVO is an equal opportunities employer.

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S & W Beristoff PLC the holding company of an international group of companies is seeking a Senior Secretary for the Group Company Secretary. The successful applicant would have already held a senior secretarial position which would have demanded a high standard of secretarial skills. This is an interesting and challenging position which requires complete confidentiality together with tact and flexible approach to one's work. If interested write for further information enclosing details of career to date to:

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For expanding Guildford Marketing Company. Should be 25+, possess high academic qualification and commercial experience requiring initiative, enthusiasm, sense of humour and insight into management problems. Specifically excellent shorthand and typing skills are essential and experience of word processing an advantage.

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IN NEWARK

**GEOFFREY
HUGHES**

1. *Chlorophyll a* and *Chlorophyll b* were determined by the method of Lichtenthaler and Whistler (1973). The total chlorophyll content was determined by the method of Arar and Cook (1977). The carotenoid content was determined by the method of Lichtenthaler and Whistler (1973). The total carotenoid content was determined by the method of Arar and Cook (1977). The total carotenoid content was determined by the method of Arar and Cook (1977).

plus a pop song. 9.2
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Tarrant and Mary

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1. *Chlorophyll a* and *Chlorophyll b* were determined by the method of Lichtenthaler and Whistler (1973).

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Ploughing a rugged furrow across the German plain

From Rodney Cowton
Defence Correspondent
Hildesheim

"I see they are doing the ploughing by tank this year," an onlooker commented yesterday as 300 British, American and West German tanks charged across farmland to the north of Hildesheim.

This was one of the big set-piece battles of Exercise Lamberheart, arising from a carefully contrived situation which allowed American Abrams and West German Leopard tanks to attack the British 4 Armoured Division in the flank.

The ploughing done by the tanks as their tracks threw clods of earth 7ft or 8ft into the air may not have been entirely to the satisfaction of the farmers, for they tend to chew up the ground rather than reduce it to neat, straight furrows.

On the other hand the locals did not seem particularly disturbed either. Their land is used only by arrangement, and compensation is paid for damage caused.

At the start of the exercise it was estimated that that might amount to £2m, though in the early stages damage was lighter than had been feared.

Through-out the area of yesterday's tank battle they and their associated armoured personnel carriers seemed to outnumber civilian vehicles.

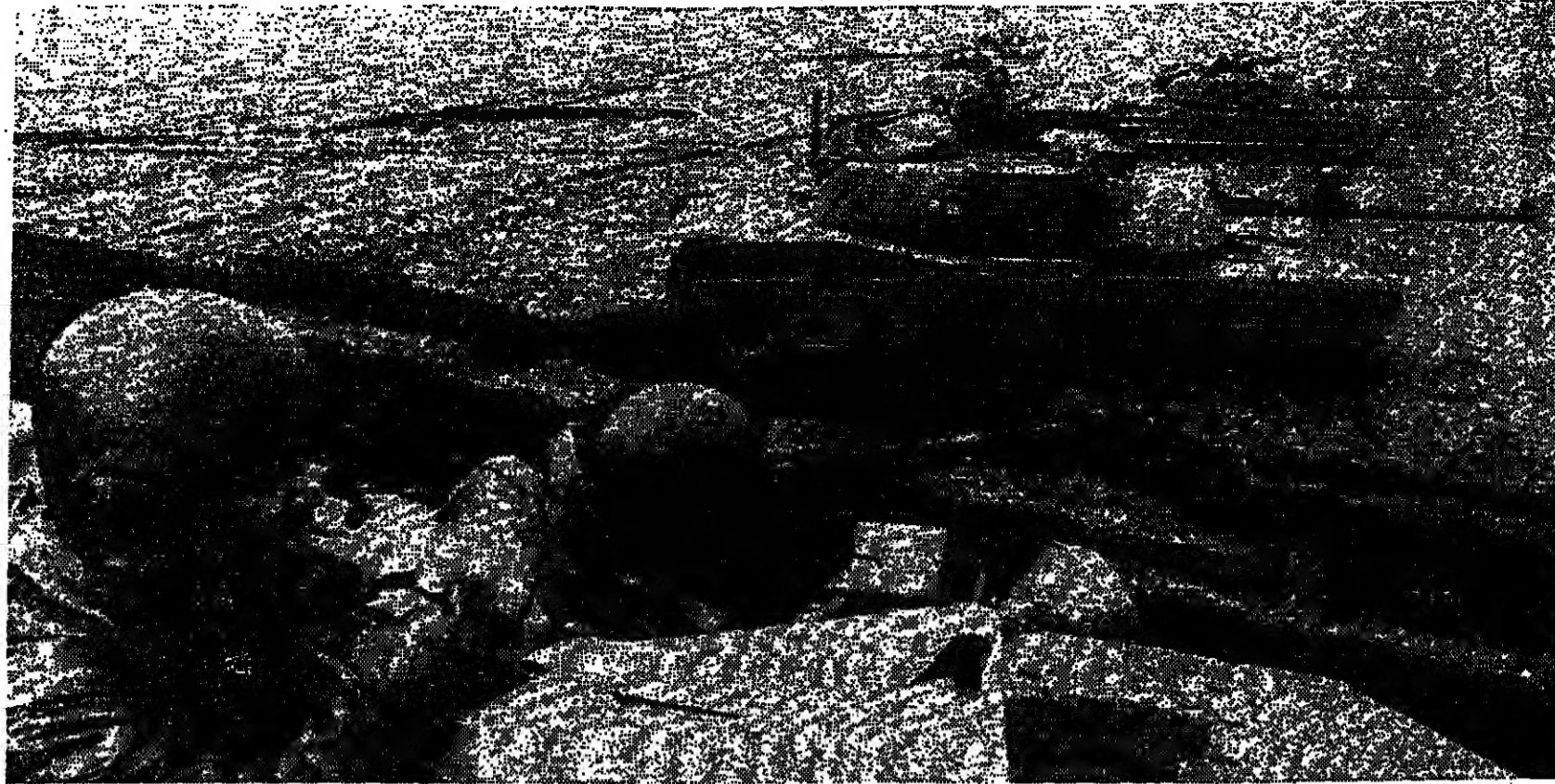
In many villages 55-ton tanks were neatly parked at the roadside among family cars. Housewives out shopping picked their way between tanks or stepped carefully over infantry men lying prone in at street corners.

As one American tank in a village fired very noisy blanks at British vehicles which had intruded into its street an old man walked by pushing a wheelbarrow full of freshly gathered carrots.

One difference between an exercise and real war is that in an exercise casualties are usually simply withdrawn from play for a token period of an hour or two.

Yesterday, members of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment were taking advantage of a brief "death" to shave, wash and make a brew-up among farm buildings at Rantenberg.

It did not seem to matter greatly but the umpires decided that the American flank attack had failed, and by early afternoon they were withdrawing.



Line of battle: American Abrams tank crews surveying the field during their flank attack on British armoured units yesterday



They also serve: A British infantry soldier sits and waits, while a colleague rushes into action (Photographs: Brian Harris)

Letter from La Paz

Spending pesos by the plane

Forty of Bolivia's largest-value banknotes are needed to pay for a restaurant meal in La Paz, these days. About a hundred will buy a pair of shoes, or a sweater, while a hotel room requires 60.

Although inflation has not yet reached the level of the Weimar Republic, when wheelbarrows were used to cart round the huge amount of cash needed for just a day's transactions, here one needs at least a large carrier bag. Such is the annual rate of inflation, now at least 1,000 per cent, that the wise visitor changes only enough dollars to last one day, or six hours if possible, as the daily rate can sometimes fluctuate by up to six per cent.

Changing money is no problem. Just down from the city's main square, hundreds of money-changers block the pavements. Most of them are very pretty girls, who whisper the magic word "dollars" in your ear as you pass, as they would a sexual proposition. When you choose the one for your deal, out comes a calculator, and a feet-high pile of cash.

The current rate for one dollar is 15 of the largest, 10,000 peso banknotes made in England by Thomas de la Rue, who send them out to Bolivia by the plane.

People walk around with a huge bundle of notes, often wrapped in old newspapers, but La Paz still being as peaceful a city as its name suggests, there is no trouble, such is the discrepancy between the official and the black market rate, that it is possible to stay at the city's most luxurious hotel, the Sheraton, for \$15. But to get on it, you have to queue for half a day, and they will have to give another \$15 to the clerk to be sure of your seat.

Apart from the madness brought about by hyperinflation, life goes on normally in the city. The Indian markets, which climb up the side of the bowl in which La Paz is built, have not changed in decades.

Indian women squat beside meticulously arranged piles of potatoes, tomatoes, and exotic herbs, laid out in the way they have been since Inca times.

The dress in several layers of colourful, voluminous skirts, which protect them from the freezing cold of the La Paz night. They turn their face to the wall, or throw a stone, or curse you, if you try to take a photograph.

Most have a baby nestling in a shawl tied to their backs. Indian porters bent double under the weight of a piece of furniture or several crates of beer, stagger up and down the steep hills, hooking buses through the throng, packed to the roof.

Little paraffin stoves roar, heating impromptu meals ladled out to customers as they pass along the streets. They usually contain a clay pot of indeterminate meat, probably llama, maize, and the inviolable frozen potatoes, a grey, unappetising affair, which takes a considerable time to get a taste for.

It is the women who run the markets in this very segregated society. The men hang around waiting for the day in the week when they must drive their lorries back to their villages. They sit around drinking at a pace, and with a persistence unequalled in Latin America.

With democracy, life has come back to La Paz's political class, and the best-known of them, complete with 1930s decor and service, is always packed. These days the leftists occupy the best tables, near the entrance, surveying all who come in. The fascists, who occupied the prime spot until two years ago, have been relegated to the darkest corner, and the two groups exchange glares and insults.

Because of the chaotic situation, strikes and stoppages occur all the time. The newspapers have special columns for listing them. One day, all the chemists are closed, and last week meter-readers, market tax collectors, some bank employees, tinmine supervisors, lottery ticket sellers and teachers were all out. Next week, there is to be a transport strike, and La Paz will come to a standstill.

Patrick Knight

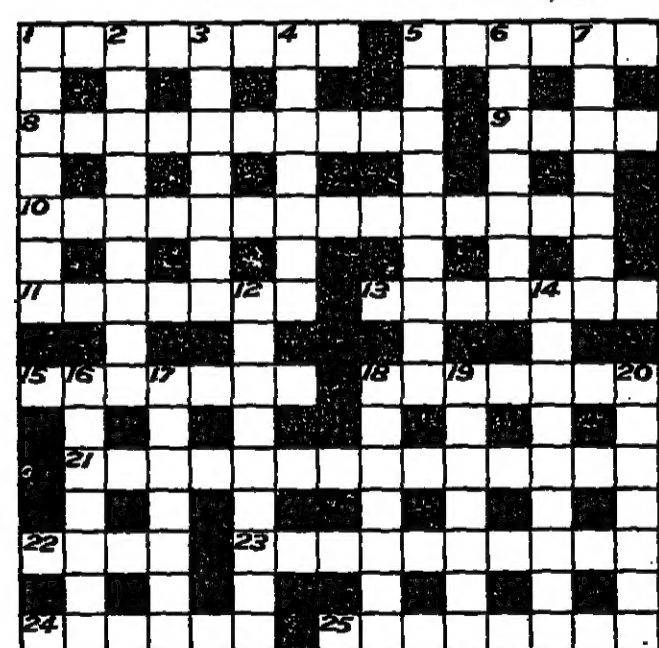
THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements
Princess Anne is installed as Master of the Worshipful Company of Farriers at the Skippers' Hall, 3, and later attends the Worshipful Company of Farriers annual service at St Michael Paternoster Royal, EC4; at 7, accompanied by Captain

Mark Phillips, she attends the Court dinner at Skippers' Hall. The Duchess of Kent attends the annual dinner of the British Orthopaedic Association at Mansion House, 7.20.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,545



- ACROSS
- Young bird's broken home (8).
 - Plump one married to a Bluebird (6).
 - Slowly trudge to the Dell, missing the end of Mr Winkle (10).
 - Thin pair of arms (4).
 - Pure profit from a principal source (6,8).
 - The children are after mother for some fruit (7).
 - Base for weaving Gobelin (7).
 - Italian scientist in the tube (7).
 - Stick to the point, and perhaps press it (7).
 - Auditor at Epsom, perhaps? He is certainly a bookman (4,10).
 - Chronicler of Clovis has a drink, we hear (4).
 - An order for rare hotpot (10).
 - Second pair of trousers covers the surface (6).
 - Drop straight in the swamp and cause alarm (8).
- DOWN
- Deprived of shelter, sounded cross and puzzled (7).
 - Not the horse chap's servant, though he may hold the ring (9).
 - Spanish gem's concealed goal break (7).
 - Pulses pound - listen out (7).
 - Lighter than a feather when ringed (9).
 - Trooped out, being expelled from tube (7).
 - Between husband and wife, if it turned warlike (7).
 - Tell stories when climbing island peaks (9).
 - Three bus re-routed to this capital (9).
 - Passage from outdated pamphlet (7).
 - The wood where this lives is called holy (7).
 - Someone else still to be selected (7).
 - Fixture for which the cavalry make a charge (4-8).
 - How to keep soldiers on the rails? (7).

Solution of Puzzle No 16,544

Exhibitions in progress

Room for Thought: eight works by Hilary Lang, The Cooper Gallery, Church St, Barnsey; Tues 1 to 5.30, Wed to Sun 10 to 5.30; ends Oct 21.

Matisses: illustrations to the love poems of Pierre de Ronsard; Sudley Art Gallery and Museum, Mossley Hill Rd, Liverpool; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5; ends Oct 7.

New Generation in Scotland: work by newly qualified college students; Mercury Gallery, 2-3 North Bank St, The Mound, Edinburgh; Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30, Sat 10 to 1; ends Oct 13.

Last chance to see

Pastimes in Past Times: Hagga Castle Museum, 100 St Andrews Drive, Glasgow; 10 to 5.

Paintings by James, Elsie and Calie Harrigan; MacLaurin Art Gallery, Roselle Park, Ayr; 11 to 5.

Talks, lectures

French Rococo painting by Stephanie Brown; Laing Art Gallery, Highgate Place, Newcastle upon Tyne; 12.30.

Music

Organ recital by Peter Goodman; St Edmunds Church, Southwold, Suffolk; 8.15.

Organ recital by Carlo Curley; Parr Hall, Palmyra Sq, Warrington; 7.45.

Mozart's 200th anniversary

concert with Douglas Smith, the Cheltenham Sunday Players and Denis Matthews; Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham; 7.30.

Hexham Abbey Festival: organ recital by Gillian Weir; Hexham Abbey; 7.30.

Flute recital by Tracey Stewart

and Bridget Frost; Museum and Art Gallery, Chequer Rd, Doncaster; 1.

General

Book Market: Fisher Hall, Cambridge; 10 to 5.

Bournemouth Transport Museum open day; Mallard Road Depot, off Castle Lane, Bournemouth; 10.30 to 3.30.

Local bus services

The Department of Transport issued a leaflet yesterday, explaining the Government's plans for changing local bus services as proposed in its White Paper last July. The leaflet summarizes the Government's arguments for the necessity of such changes, and stresses the possibility of new small-scale services in rural areas where present routes are uneconomic. Questions about concessionary fares, through-tickets and publicity for the new routes are also answered. Details from: Department of Transport, 2 Marsham St, London SW1P 3EB; Tel: 01-212 3434 (Public Enquiry Unit).

New books - hardback

The Library Editor's selection of interesting books published this week

Ancient Fiction: The Novel in the Greco-Roman World, by Graham Anderson (Croom Helm, £8.95)

Selected Poems, by Tony Harrison (Viking, £9.95)

Trist Le Blanc, first translation of the Catalan romance, by David Rosenthal (Macmillan, £9.95)

Our Vanishing Heritage, by Marcus Binney (Arlington Books, £12.95)

Savre and his predecessors, The Self and the Other, by William Ralph Schroeder (Routledge & Kegan Paul, £22)

The Spencers of Albury, by Georgina Eastcliffe (Corbys, £12.95)

To the Frontier, by Geoffrey Moorhouse (Hodder & Stoughton, £9.95)

Victorian Villages, selected by Graham Greene and Hugh Greene (Viking, £10.95)

Roads

Midlands: M6: Lane closures between junctions 6 (Birmingham Central) and 7 (Walsley); no entry from Salford Circus; junction southbound entry closed between 7-10am weekdays; junction 4 northbound entry closed, 7.30-9am. M5: Various lane closures in both directions between junctions 3 (Kidderminster) and 4 (Bromsgrove); junction 4 northbound entry slip road closed from Sept 17 for 2 weeks. A38: Contraflow on operation on Burton on Trent by-pass. Wales and West: M5: Contraflow between junctions 15 (Bristol/S Wales) and 17 (Bristol/W Severn Beach/Clifton) southbound; southbound entry closed at junction 16; northbound entry slip road restrictions. A55: Contraflow on Llandudno by-pass between Chester and Colwyn Bay.

The North: M6: Roadworks on southbound carriageway between junction 32 (Preston) and 33 (Lancaster); contraflow on northbound.

Scotland: A84: Roadworks N of Strathgry: single lane traffic. A8: Bypassing operations; periodic halting of traffic at Killcrankie. A92: Single lane traffic 2 miles N of Stonehaven.

Information supplied by the AA

The pound

	Bank	Bank
Australia	1.50	1.50
Canada	1.25	1.25
Denmark	1.34	1.34
France	1.48	1.48
Germany	1.58	1.58
Italy	1.36	1.36
Japan	1.50	1.50
Netherlands	1.50	1.50
Portugal	1.50	1.50
Spain	1.50	1.50
Sweden	1.50	1.50
Switzerland	1.50	1.50
USA	1.50	1.50

London: The FT index closed up 5.6 at 770.1.

Weather

The N winds over E areas will weaken and pressure will become fairly uniform over the British Isles.

London, SE, central N England, S, W Midlands, Channel, Bristol, SW, sunny periods; wind W or NW light; max temp 17C (63F).

SW NW England, S, N Wales: dry, sunny periods after early mist and fog patches; wind variable light; max temp 16C (61F).

LAKE DISTRICT, Isle of Man, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Argy, Northern Ireland: dry, sunny intervals; some mist and fog patches at first; wind variable light; max temp 16C (61F).

NI: England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee: a few showers; some rain and fog patches; wind NW moderate; max temp 15C (59F).

NI: NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: fairly cloudy at first with occasional rain and drizzle; wind NW light or moderate; max temp 14C (57F).

Anniversaries

Births: T. S. Eliot, St Louis, Missouri; 1883; Giovanni Montali, Pope Paul VI 1963-78; Concesio, Italy; 1897.

Deaths: Thomas Clarkson, anti-slavery agitator, Plymouth, Lake, Ipswich; 1846; James Keir Hardie, Labour Party leader, Glasgow; 1915; William Henry Davies, poet, Nailsworth, Gloucestershire; 1940; Béla Bartók, New York; 1945; Solomon West Ridgeway Bandaranaike, prime minister of Ceylon 1956-59, Colombo; 1959.

Domesday Book

The two volumes of the Domesday Book, William the Conqueror's survey of his new kingdom and the oldest surviving public record (1086), will be soon be withdrawn from display at the Public Record Office's museum in Chancery Lane, London, for re-binding, and for the production of a full colour photographic copy. The re-binding will be complete by the spring of 1986, when the Domesday Book will be 900 years old.

Portfolio

Portfolio - how to play
Monday-Saturday record your daily Portfolio

Add these together to determine your weekly Portfolio total.

If your total matches the published weekly dividend figure you have won outright or a share of the prize money staged for this week, and must claim your prize as instructed below.

How to claim

Telephone The Times Portfolio claims line 0204-22072 between 10.30 am and 3.30 pm, on the day your overall total matches the Times Portfolio dividend. No claims can be accepted outside these hours.

You must have your card with you when you telephone.

If you are unable to telephone someone else can claim on your behalf but they must have your card and the Times Portfolio claims line between the relevant times.

No responsibility can be accepted for failure to contact the claims office for any reason within the stated hours.

The above instructions are applicable to both daily and weekly dividend claims.

A few Times Portfolio cards include minor errors. In the instructions on the reverse side, these cards are not investigated.

Highest and lowest

Yesterday: Highest day temperature 18C (64F) lowest day temperature 10C (50F) Highest rainfall: Jersey 0.5in, highest minimum: Jersey 0.5in.

London

Yesterday: Temp: min 6 am to 6 pm, 15C (59F); max 6 pm to 6 am, 20C (68F); humidity 6 pm, 65 per cent. Rain: 6 pm to 6 am, trace. Sun: 6 am to 6 pm, 2.2 hr. Bar: min 6 am to 6 pm, 1012.0 millibars, steady.

Around Britain

	Sun	Fri	Sat	Sun	Fri	Sat
South	17	15	15	17	15	15
West	17	15	15	17	15	15
North	17	15	15	17	15	15
East	17	15	15	17	15	15
South	17	15	15	17	15	15
West	17	15	15	17	15	15
North	17	15	15	17	15	15
East	17	15	15	17	15	15

Abroad

	Sun	Fri	Sat	Sun	Fri	Sat
Algeria	17	15	15	17	15	15
Algeria	17	15	15	17	15	15
Algeria	17	15	15	17	15	15
Algeria	17	15	15	17	15	15
Algeria	17	15	15	17	15	15
Algeria	17	15	15	17	15	15
Algeria	17	15	15	17	15	15
Algeria	17	15	15	17	15	15

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